Sheikh Nurbashir Ahmad

JESUS IN KASHMIR

THE LOST TOMB



SUZANNE OLSSON

Jesus in Kashmir The Lost Tomb
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KUDOS & APPRECIATION

In memory of Safiyah and Kinanah, young love cut tragically short by terrorism. Special thanks to the grandfathers who guided and protected me, to my daughter Sabrina and my son Shannon, who fill me with pride every day, to Michele Doucette, cousin extraordinaire who contributed so much time editing, to Liz Caton for midnight coffee and vitamins as I struggled to get the book within- out. With fond memories and great respect for Hasan Ahmad Dani, (1920-2009) Director Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations, Pakistan, for his friendship and good guidance as my valuable teacher and guru, and heartfelt thanks to Professor Fida Hassnain (b.1924-) Director of Archives, Archaeology, Research, and Museums, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, for his endless efforts on behalf of Roza Bal and his unwavering faith in me to get this book done. For the tuck-tuck drivers and the many wonderful people who told the blonde when to duck and when to run, thank you.
The book is done. Now I fear critics more than kalashnikovs.



"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons." — Douglas MacArthur

Suzanne Olsson



Guest Speaker
Capitol Hill
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INTRODUCTION

My search for Jesus is not a religious quest, but a historical one that began in an old Victorian attic. The attic was rarely visited and never dusted or cleaned, an enchanted foreboding place filled with motionless, suspended air, cobwebs, mystery and memories. A distinctive odor of old wood and cedar blended with the camphor mothballs scattered on bare wood floors. Dust shimmered in beams of sunlight struggling to shine through a window never meant to be opened or cleaned. Christmas glitter sparkled between cracks in the floorboards. Old wooden trunks held vintage family Bibles, photos, wedding dresses, handmade lace and linens, army uniforms, ceremonial flags and military service Medals of Honor.

Lifting the heavy lids was a religious ritual performed to the melodic ariettas of Grandmother's whispery sighs, not from the weight of the lids but the weight of the memories on her heart.

Crutches and chipped chamber pots were stacked in deep shadows under the eaves. A child could have serious exploration time here, but Grandmother kept me strictly focused. She raised the heavy wood lid on an old trunk. Another smell tickled my nose as it rose to freedom, the redolent blend of mothballs and lavender-rose sachets made from flowers nurtured in her summer gardens.

Our ancient family Bibles were wrapped in faded yellowed linens tied with ribbons that were once a shade of pale blue. We carried the books down the creaking stairs and placed them carefully on the dining table. The Directors from the Museum were waiting for us, smiling in anticipation.

Grandmother's hands looked frail, translucent, ethereal and ghostly against the dark covers of the crackled leather-bound behemoths. As her hands rested on the books, she held the power of Janus standing at the portal between past and present. Then she moved aside and granted access.

The men examined the pages slowly, sometimes using a magnifying glass to read the faded entries more clearly. Some entries were written in languages that Grandmother didn't know. They copied everything into their notebooks. This was a time when pages could not be photographed or photocopied at home.



The paper corners crumbled like dried onionskins. These Bibles, journals and diaries had crossed oceans centuries ago and represented the lives of many generations. Notes scribbled in the margins added colorful details about their births, marriages, and deaths in far-off lands.

As sure as the sun, the moon, and the stars, these were not mere dusty crumbling historical curiosities. These were once living, breathing life forms who were my ancestors. Their DNA is my DNA, and their stories are directly connected with several events in this book.

Grandmother served the gentlemen tea in her best china cups, made of porcelain with gold rims and hand painted red roses.

A few years later Grandmother received two red leather-bound books published by the Demarest Museum[1]. This was our family genealogy compiled from dozens of local Bibles, ship manifestos, personal diaries, letters, and historical records gathered from relatives far and wide.

Several times a year grandmother took me to visit family graves. It was a tradition passed down from her mother and her mother's mother. She removed twigs and weeds, planted flowers, and sometimes spoke to the ances-

tors with tears in her eyes, as though they could hear and understand her every word.

I am grown now. I continue the traditions learned at her side, clearing twigs and planting flowers around the grave stones- sometimes with tears in my eyes because her gravestone is here now, with the ancestors, and I miss her.

It is an awesome moment to stand at an ancient family grave and realize you would not be here but through them. These are moments of reflection and bonding. Time is meaningless and the sense of connection is not diminished in a hundred years, or a thousand. You gaze at their graves, and you see 'you'- your past- your present- and your future.

I am their next chance in a long line of lives and deaths leading to a distant future that they, somewhere in time or space or heaven, may already know but I can only imagine.

> *'Walking, I am listening to a deeper way. Suddenly all my ancestors are behind me. Be still, they say. Watch and listen.*
> *You are the result of the love of thousands.'*
> Linda Hogan (b.1947) Native American writer

Two pieces of information converged in my life and initiated this journey. First, I saw the names of my ancestors appearing in history books. Baldwin, 1st King of Jerusalem, appears to have been a relative in my family tree. The word desposyni, in connection with a bloodline to the family of Jesus, was presumed connected with the Merovingians. This included my ancestry. Fraudulous claims were exposed yearly. One did not want to jump to any conclusions without proof. The only proof I could think of was DNA testing.

Along with these theories about Merovingians and des Marets and DNA was the theory that Jesus did not die on the cross, but survived and went to India, where he lived to a ripe old age.

Was there any historical validity to any of these theories? How could they possibly all be connected in to one cohesive historical account? Indeed there are fascinating connections, and these will unfold for you on the following pages. I relied on historical information that can be readily checked and verified. The endnotes in this book are ample.

Looking for the family of Jesus or for my own ancestors involves the same methods of research, and sometimes the same family names, making it difficult to keep our lineages separate on these pages or in my heart. I did not begin my journey with a plan, nor a time limit, nor an agenda, nor a preconceived point of view. I did not have a grant to study in a specific place for a specified time. I had a small but secure income from a pension. It was such a pittance that I was poor in most Third World countries. Never the less I was free to travel, or to settle down and live where I wanted, when I wanted for as

long as I felt necessary, or until fear, terrorism, and those rare moments of common sense compelled me to leave.

THE STARTING POINT IS DNA

Haplogroup is tied to geography. It represents a group of people with the same mutation (change) in their Y-Chromosome, which they inherited from their distant fathers. Y-Chromosome is only copied to sons, not to daughters. Daughters will inherit only X chromosome from fathers.

As change in Y-Chromosome is exactly transmitted from fathers to sons for hundreds of successive generations, this means the people in the same haplogroup had common male ancestors thousands years back. In other words, they are derived from the same stock. My DNA is Haplogroup H1. This originated in SouthEast Asia and spread to Europe. The Basques are predominantly Haplo Group H1. According to the Ethnic Genome Project [2] ('The Race of Sephardic Jews' March 4, 2009) many Jews, including Sephardic and Ashkenazie Jews, are also H. H is most common haplogroup in Europe. It's slightly less common in the Near East, but is still the most common one there as well. Haplogroup J is found in greatest concentration in Southwestern Arabian Peninsula among Bedouins and other Arab groups. Prophet Muhammad was probably in this Haplogroup. He too has a grave still intact from which DNA can be recovered. Recent genome studies [3] appear to show that most Indians are descendants of Ancestral North Indians (related to Central Asians, Middle Easterners and Europeans) and Ancestral South Indians who are not closely related to external groups, except possibly the aboriginal populations in Australia. Some of my DNA results correlate well with my known family history. However, some is a great surprise to me.

This book is my effort to recreate for you the experience of opening an old attic trunk filled with historical memorabilia, to dust off ancient artifacts, books, legends, relics, even family DNA, to re-examine them and see them in surprisingly new and unexpected ways.

I was on the road less traveled in search of Jesus, an unexpected road that led to the far corners of the world, to places one would never expect to find a trail for Jesus: from Israel, Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia to Britain, France, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Tibet, Nepal and the Himalayas. I have been to almost every place pictured in this book as I followed the trail of Jesus. The clues strongly suggest he'd been there too.

The road winds through many countries and religions, through cultural terrorism, wars and refugee camps, through ancient and modern flight, through migrations of mankind, through DNA recovered from ancient graves and tombs. During these years I witnessed things that made me ask hard questions, not just about Jesus and bloodlines, but about religion, about theories like ancient aliens that exist worldwide, about cultural violence and destruction that hinders us from getting to the truth. This violence exists

everywhere. It weighs heavily on my heart and on the pages of this book. I will probably never have the opportunity to finish the DNA of God Project, but perhaps some of you will. And it is for you that I included many little details. I wish I had known them sooner. It would have made my journey faster, easier, and more productive.

BEFORE

Until our arrival in America, France had been home to my male ancestors, the Franks-Gauls, who were in large part descended from the Vikings. The word Viking comes from 'vik', describing an exploratory trip by boat on the rivers. We are certain of these ancestors because both our family records and our DNA trails confirm this. In 45 BC, the grandparents of Jesus were alive and the Roman Empire ruled Gaul. The Romans built roads to France and Britain that are still in use today. Thus our families interacted through wars, through trade and through marriages.

The Salian tribes were seafarers. My ancestors, the Franks and Vikings, were Salian tribes that combined forces to form a loose confederacy. They stood together to negotiate with Roman authority. Studies of genetics indicate the origin and expansion of the Viking population and the Haplogroup I-1 is sometimes referred to as the 'Viking Haplogroup.'[4]

This mutation occurs with the greatest frequency among Scandinavian males and then successively decreases as one goes further south. It may have begun as an adaptation to the extreme cold and lack of the sunshine vitamin D during the last Ice Age.

In southern Italy, Haplogroup J and E can be traced through the Roman Empire and into the Middle East. The Haplogroup R1 is shared with Tutankhamun, Czar Nicholas of Russia, and Albert Einstein. However, Ramesses III Pharaoh of Egypt is Y-DNA haplogroup E1b1a.[5] The DNA of Jesus might fall into any one of these Haplogroups as the northern and southern human adaptations re-blended to become Indo-Europeans.

Each Salian tribe consisted of extended family groups centered on a renowned or noble family member. The importance of the family bond was made clear by the Salic law, which ordained that an individual had no right to protection if not part of a family. One Salian family that was prominent in Frankish history in the early fifth century was the Merovingians. King Merovee and legends of his descent from a sea creature became associated with Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations. The remains of their great cities can still be visited in Crete today.

Poseidon is said to be of the family of Theseus, King of Athens, descended from Cetthin-Cetin, a grandson of Noah[6]. There are no less than three ancient graves associated with Noah in the region. These graves could possibly be opened and DNA extracted. That the Greek mythologies closely parallel Bible

stories has been well known. Many gods who were associated with water probably had their origins among the Vikings.

I Maccabees 12:21-

> "It has been found in a writing concerning the Lacedamonians (Greeks) and Jews (Judah), that they are kinsmen, and that they are descended from Abraham."

We will discover Abraham and Sarah's connections to India, where they were known as the gods Brahma and Sarasvati. This leads to a cultural conflict because in India they are regarded as Hindu mythological gods, visions and manifestations of a certain state of mind. In the Bible and the Quran, they are not gods but flesh and blood prophets. They too have real graves that have survived to this day and could yield DNA, which would then yield a wealth of historical data.

My family, the Des Marets, was a branch of Merovingians traced back to Flanders and the House of Bousis in Normandy, named for the 'North men' from Scandinavians who settled there. Maretz (des Marets means 'of Maretz'- which became Demarest in the New World[7]) is an old French word for 'marsh' representing the marshy areas around rivers that were settled by Vikings-places where our ancient family castles and homes still remain standing since the time of Christ. The important city of Reims was founded by Gauls at the time of the Roman Empire, and the castles of King Clovis still stand there. The Viking Rollo was the first Duke (or Count) of Normandy[8], a fellow whose descendants would predominate during the Crusades and recovery of the Holy Lands. The word Bousis derives from the Baiocasses region of Normandy known as Bessin or Bayeux. This is from an old Celtic-Viking word meaning 'yellow-blond', associated with both hair color and with metallurgy and goldsmiths. Tin was rare and so the Romans were motivated to conquer areas of major tin mines in northern France and Britain. The Baiocasses excelled at minting gold, silver and bullion coins, which required tin in the melting process. A number of their relics and stunning intricate gold jewelry pieces are in museums around the world.

The 4th-century Bordelaise poet Ausonius teased a friend who was a Baiocassis, who claimed to be of druidic heritage descended from priests of Belenus. They were Druids who shared the beliefs of Zoroastrians and the god Apollo regarding holy fire, and indeed the connections with Apollo are even more entwined, but that's another story.

Most 'royal' bloodlines in Europe today will have an ancestor traced back to Clovis and his wife Clotilde. The Baldwin-Des Maretz family (of Flanders and Normandy) does. 'Clovis', first king of a united France, is a variation of the names Lois, Loys and Louis (lovis-clovis-lois). Loys was the contemporary spelling used by the kings of France until Louis XIII.

The fleur de lys is the symbol of the lilies that grew with abundance along the river Lis (Lys-the river named after this flower). Its source is in Pas-de-



Calais, France. The river meanders through densely populated regions of France and Belgium and is heavily polluted today, its ancient beauty only seen in old paintings. The fleur de lys is one of the most widely recognized symbols in the world today. It appears on all French Coats of Arms, including my family, the DesMarets.

Throughout this book, we will determine if, when and where descendants of Jesus entered the Merovingian (and later Carolingian) bloodlines. This idea has been explored in popular books like the *DaVinci Code*, *Bloodline of the Holy Grail*, and *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*. Anyone doing family research knows how hard it is to verify ancient information. Many genealogists can't trace a family back more than a few generations. Not many people have trunks full of old records in their attics. Few people today even know what an attic is.

I met people along the Old Silk Road who were fascinated by the study of these long-overlooked Indo-European lineages, aided in recent years through the field of archaeogenetics.

COMING TO AMERICA

My ancestors fled France and came to America to avoid religious persecution. Maretz is just 100 miles north of Paris. Those Frenchmen who crossed the border into Belgium and Zeeland traded their identity as Merovingians and Carolingians to become Dutch 'Huguenots' and Walloon.

Peter Minuet's wife was a Huguenot. He was a Walloon originally from the French-speaking city of Tournai in modern day Belgium, just a stone's throw from our ancestral castles in France. He worked as an agent for the Des Marets and other families seeking religious freedom in the new world.

In 1626, with funds given to him by the Huguenots and Walloons, he purchased a track of land on Manhattan Island [New Amsterdam] from the Leni Lenape Indians (although some say it was a different tribe) for twenty-four dollars' worth of trade goods, which in the 19th century, was estimated to be the equivalent of $1000 USD.

Since the conversion of King Clovis to Christianity, France was being controlled more and more by the Catholic faith and its powerful popes and priests. This led to bloodshed. Many Protestants fled to avoid forced conversions.

My grandparents 12 generations back were among the very first Huguenots to arrive in Manhattan, New York (New Amsterdam then) in 1663. My great grandmother, Marie Sohier Des Marets, died of fever on Manhattan Island in 1681. Her husband David des Marets and their sons placed her body on a boat and paddled along the Hudson River looking for land to begin a family

graveyard in the New World. Most Lenape and Delaware Indians turned them away.

Eventually they were allowed ashore in an area where the Gorge Washington Bridge now crosses the Hudson River. They hauled her body up the steep 500 feet of sheer rock walls called 'The Palisades" and entered the dense wild forests of New Jersey. They buried Marie there. It is known as the Old French Cemetery to this day. Her sons purchased 200 acres nearby in 1695 and built their first real home and Church in the New World. 250 years later I was born just a few miles distance from her grave.



When I die, wherever I die, I will be brought home to be buried in the last empty space left in our family's old graveyard.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF JOURNEY

At homes in Afghanistan, Kashmir or Pakistan, I could listen to them talk about history and legends for hours. I was compelled to think about families, genetics, religious beliefs, the things that define how much alike, and how different we are one from another. Somewhere deep within me, a thwarted anthropologist was frustrated, struggling to learn more, to understand man's ancient cultures and conflicts at a deeper level. I wore shalwar-kameez and sat cross-legged and barefoot with the women, enjoying the warm kilims spread on the floor. In stricter Muslim cultures, the men and women were segregated. The food would be served by the children, or by male chokidars (common laborers and errand boys). Tehseen and I were sleeping over at her family village on the outskirts of Peshawar, when, late in the evening, five men made an unexpected stopover on their way to somewhere never defined. One of the men was Tehseen's brother-in-law.

The women were obligated to shelter and feed these relatives and sudden guests without ever being seen or heard by them. Every Islamic house has a special 'male-only' room with its own access separate from the main house. This room is called a hujra (the term mehman khana is also used- a direct derivation from Persian- and means "guest house or room.")

Tehseen explained that she had never seen her husband's brothers' faces directly in 20 years of marriage. We struggled to find enough food to serve them a traditional 'dastarkhan' spread out on the floor. I contributed some rupees and one of the children ran off to wake the local grocer for supplies. There were just enough twigs stored next to the chulha (earthen cook area) to start a decent fire. Often there was not enough fuel to stay warm or cook a meal. We were lucky tonight because winter had not yet set in. A few extra twigs and sticks had accumulated. It took us nearly two hours, well past

midnight, before the food was ready. The men knew that a farangi (foreign) woman was in the house and they wanted to see me. It was a bold request.

It was pointless to hide behind my burkha or cover my face with a niqab. I entered the room as a western woman, greeting them warmly and speaking in a direct manner. They were sitting on the floor, some talking softly on their cell phones. I had bad luck with cell phones. Mine were lost, stolen, or accidently dropped in mountain streams. I finally conceded that owning one was not a practical idea at this time in my life. This lack of modern technology made me feel awkward and technologically challenged in their presence. Their shoes were by the door, their Kalashnikovs (AK-47's) leaning against the wall. This is a gun culture. Armed men are everywhere, guarding shops in towns where there are no burglar alarms or electricity.

Local armed men get children safely to and from schools because kidnapping for ransom is lucrative in these parts. I can shoot a kalashnikov. My father was a sharpshooter and gun instructor in the Army. He taught us daughters to ride swift horses and handle guns when we were very young.

Sometimes an Afghan or a Pakistani would challenge me to a 'duel'-target practice to see who could shoot those rocks off yonder hill. I managed to get off one or two good shots-which usually surprised them. Fortunately rocks are stationary and were eventually hit. I was a lone foreign woman in the presence of seriously armed men. This was not the time or place to show off my gun skills. They always won. It was the prudent thing to do.

The tall Afghan sitting cross legged in the corner dressed like one of the poor tribals from the mountains. His clothes were frayed, stained with the colors of dirt from the Hindu-Kush and the Tora Boras. However there was a commanding presence about him. His features were handsomely chiseled in the way of his ancient Aryan ancestors.

His turban (longi-lungee) was wrapped in the distinctive Afghan style with one end hanging long down his shoulder. A man's culture, even the very town he came from, could often be identified by the style and wrapping technique of his turban. His ragged clothes and shoes held together with twine did not diminish his regal bearing. He was right off the pages of a romance-adventure drama. He barely glanced at me as his fingers flew nimbly over his cell phone. Being in the presence of an unknown foreign woman who was not veiled perhaps made him uncomfortable, or was it because I was associated with 'the enemy', the western world? Several of the men spoke perfect English acquired at universities in the United States, the U.K., or local schools run by churches- then they slid effortless-



ly into Pashtu and Dari, Urdu, Hindi, and Arabic. I was still struggling to remember High School Spanish and French. Our conversations had to be in English which they spoke perfectly. Their ragged looks were deceiving. These men weren't semi-literate tribals just out of a madrassa. These men could have been graduates of MIT or Oxford.

Biblical prophets are well known to Muslims worldwide because their names are also in the Quran. Jesus' name appears 25 times in the Quran. Muhammad's name only appears four times. Pashtuns believe they are related directly to the Jews. The men seemed keenly interested in my quest for holy grandfathers on their native soil, especially such a holy man as Yuz Asaf, whom they believed was Jesus. The Quran supports the view that Jesus did not die on the cross, and that he and Mother Mary probably came to Kashmir.

> Qur'an, sura 4 (An-Nisa) ayat 157-15: "They said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah";- but they killed him not, nor crucified him, so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not:-Nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself; and Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise."
>
> 23:50. "And We made the son of Mary and his mother a sign, (and a model of virtue), and We gave them both refuge upon a worth-living lofty plateau abounding in (green and fruitful) valleys and springs of running water."

This is a perfect description of Kashmir. If there is/was a bloodline of Jesus, the same DNA could be coursing through the veins of these Pashtuns and Aryans.

After a few questions and pleasantries I was excused without ceremony. As I rose to leave, the tall, handsome Afghan spoke. His voice was calm, measured, controlling, and garnered instant respect and attention.

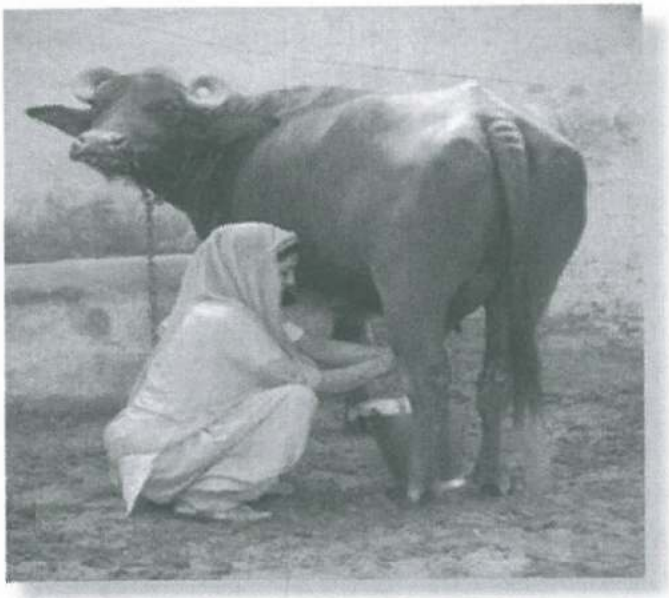
"Khuda Hafeez, baji. Shubh Kaamnaayein. Baa Aare zooyeh Mo-va-fa-ghiyat" 'Goodbye sister. Good luck. I wish for your success.' Sister? Success? My heart took a leap. That simple gesture of calling me 'his sister' changed everything. It meant I was now accepted into this extended family. They had determined that I was a holy person on a holy mission, a jihad of major significance for their Holy Prophet Issa. They were Shia Muslims (sharifs/sayyids) descended from Prophet Muhammad. The black triangle flag of the Shias flew over this house. That flag struck terror in the hearts of the infidels, warning them where they were not welcome, where never to enter. That flag on a house or in a shop became a beacon for me, a symbol of safety, refuge, trust, friendship.

A branch of this family, the Sha Mir Dynasty from Swat, had ruled Kashmir for over 222 years. Unlike the mockery and derision that came from the west, they took in stride the notion that Prophet Jesus had children and

descendants, realizing they might carry this bloodline in their veins too. My ideas for the DNA Project loomed large and exciting after we parted.

From that day forward I was protected, granted safe passage in the worse of circumstances, in the worse of places through the Pashtun code of Pashtunwali (protection and hospitality) that was extended to me and respected by all in the region. It is based on the Biblical story of Abraham welcoming angels into his tent (Genesis 18:1-19:38). Pashtuns have been known to accompany their guests to prisons in order not to abandon them under extremely difficult conditions. Anything bad that happened to a guest in their care was a bad reflection upon them.

In remote tribal areas near Peshawar and the Khyber Pass, places where warriors like Osama bin Laden were carrying on their Holy Wars against the west, my own jihad was acknowledged and respected by these Pashtuns, and their recognition was accepted by all, even Tajiks and non-Pashtuns, so long as I didn't cross any of their cultural lines of decency and respect.



I returned to the back rooms and sat on the floor with the women and children, eating the leftovers and sipping tea laden with sweet cream from the water buffalo standing in the starlit courtyard outside. It tasted like ambrosia from the gods.

When I stood up, small grains of rice that had slipped through my fingers while I was eating fell to the floor. I was embarrassed because there were no vacuum cleaners or electricity here. Every grain of rice would have to be cleaned up by hand and thrown out the window for the chickens and birds. We spread our blankets on the floor close to the primordial warmth of glowing coals. Misty moonlight streamed through the window. Ghosts of the Old Silk Road flew in on moonbeams and filled my dreams with vivid scenes I could not have imagined anywhere else on earth.

DESPOSYNI-WHAT'S IN A NAME

After thousands of years of carefully maintained records of Biblical "he begot, then he begot, then he begot....." The trail suddenly stops at the birth of Jesus.

No records were kept of his brothers and sisters, or of his children. Did they ever exist? Where are they? Where are their descendants today? Had the

Romans or the Church not cared enough to continue the story? Or were facts so thoroughly blotted from history that not even one shred of verifiable evidence remains?

Why did the gene pool leading to Jesus suddenly come to a dead end after thousands of years of preparation for his arrival? Were there no brothers or sisters? No cousins? Jews still have to maintain careful family records because the next messiah must come from the Davidic lineage. However, they too have written Jesus out of this lineage because they too believe that Jesus died on the cross without heirs.

The word desposyni means 'the family of Jesus' and includes his alleged brothers and sisters, and his own sons and daughters, if any survived. Mention of the existence of this bloodline began in the first century.

Hegesippus (c.110-c.180) wrote five books of *Commentaries on the Acts of the Church*, in which blood relatives of Jesus were also noted leaders of the community. According to author Malachi Martin (1921-1999) who was a translator and scholar at the Vatican Library, every early community of Judean followers of Jesus, whether it was Nazarene or Ebionite, was governed by a desposynos (desposyni is the Greek plural of this word) as a hereditary patriarch.

In *The Ecclesiastical History*, by Eusebius of Caesarea, completed c. 325 CE and translated by Arthur Cushman McGiffert, Book I, Chapter I: *'The Plan of the Work'*, Eusebius records an account by Julianus Africanus concerning this family-

> 'The archives up to that time contained the genealogies of the Hebrews...who pride themselves on preserving the memory of their noble extraction... among these are those already mentioned, called Desposyni, on account of their connection with the family of the Savior'.

Malachi Martin wrote in *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Church*. (New York: Bantam, 1983), pp.30-31-

> 'A meeting between Silvester and the Jewish Christian (sic) leaders took place in 318 (AD)....The vital interview was not, as far as we know, recorded, but the issues were very well known, and it is probable that Joses, the oldest of the Christian Jews (sic), spoke on behalf of the desposyni and the rest.'

None of these references states specifically that *great grandchildren* of Jesus were among the desposyni, but no one states that they were *not* descendants of Jesus. Authors like Robert Eisenmen[9] believe that the duplicate names begin appearing in the Bible in order to hide the fact that Mother Mary, the perpetual virgin, actually had additional children who were the desposyni. This conveniently makes Jesus perpetually celibate instead of Mary.

> 'Most of us have scratched our heads over the tantalizing confusions latent in the strange redundancy of similar names in the New Testa-

> ment accounts. How can Mary have had a sister named Mary? Is there a difference between Joseph Barsabbas Justus, Judas Barsabbas Justus, Jesus Justus, Titus Justus, and James the Just? Whence all the Jameses and Judases? Who are Simon the Zealot and Judas the Zealot (who appears in some NT manuscripts and other early Christian documents)? Is Clopas the same as Cleophas? What's going on with Jesus ben-Ananias, Jesus Barabbas, Elymas, bar-Jesus, and Jesus Justus? What does Boanerges really mean? Is Nathaniel a nickname for someone else? Most of us puzzle over these oddities for a moment-and then move on. After all, how important can they be, anyway?'
> [Source; dhushara.com/book/yeshua/desposyni]

How important can they be? When looking for lineages and descendants, these names are *very* important. We will look for them in Sanskrit, Urdu, Farsi, Hindi, Aramaic, Greek and Latin. We will encounter the same issue, which is the use of titles and multiple names, and how they change from one language to another. Sorting through these titles to identify people behind them can be quite the challenge. 'Megavahana' is a word that means 'Rider of the Clouds' in both Hebrew and Sanskrit, but who was this man who visited King Gondopharnes at Taxila during the time that the apostle Thomas was there? Do we know Megavahana by a different Biblical name? Was he James, brother of Jesus, or possibly Joseph of Arimathea'? The Maha Meghavahana dynasty c. 250s BC to 400s CE, was an ancient ruling dynasty of Kalinga after the decline of the Mauryan Empire.

Jesus visited the city of Taxila on the Old Silk Road, where King Gondopharnes (latinization of his Greek name) ruled. He was also known as Gastaphar (Armenian), Vindafarna (Old Persian), Gandapur (Pashtu) and additional titles.

He was of the tribe of Gad, and founder and first king of the Indo-Parthian Kingdom. His name appears on coins and rock edicts. He was also the youngest magi (wise man) to visit Jesus at his birth. According to Matthew, the only one of the four Canonical gospels to mention the Magi (as wise men) these were the first religious figures (possibly Zoroastrians) to worship Jesus. Was there a bloodline connection?

I make a claim later in this book that Abraham and Sarah were directly connected to Brahmins of India. In the Bible, they remained prophets, but in India, they became the gods Brahma and Sarasvati. Brahmins deny this could have happened, claiming a 25,000-year old history for Brahma and Sarasvati who were never 'real' people for them, but spirits and manifestations of gods. However many scholars do not believe these extended Vedic timelines are accurate, provable, or realistic, and they *can* be linked directly with the Biblical Abraham and Sarah. The graves of Sarah and Abraham have survived to this day in Hebron. Their DNA can shed new light on these old mysteries.

> ment accounts. How can Mary have had a sister named Mary? Is there a difference between Joseph Barsabbas Justus, Judas Barsabbas Justus, Jesus Justus, Titus Justus, and James the Just? Whence all the Jameses and Judases? Who are Simon the Zealot and Judas the Zealot (who appears in some NT manuscripts and other early Christian documents)? Is Clopas the same as Cleophas? What's going on with Jesus ben-Ananias, Jesus Barabbas, Elymas, bar-Jesus, and Jesus Justus? What does Boanerges really mean? Is Nathaniel a nickname for someone else? Most of us puzzle over these oddities for a moment-and then move on. After all, how important can they be, anyway?'
> [Source; dhushara.com/book/yeshua/desposyni]

How important can they be? When looking for lineages and descendants, these names are *very* important. We will look for them in Sanskrit, Urdu, Farsi, Hindi, Aramaic, Greek and Latin. We will encounter the same issue, which is the use of titles and multiple names, and how they change from one language to another. Sorting through these titles to identify people behind them can be quite the challenge. 'Megavahana' is a word that means 'Rider of the Clouds' in both Hebrew and Sanskrit, but who was this man who visited King Gondopharnes at Taxila during the time that the apostle Thomas was there? Do we know Megavahana by a different Biblical name? Was he James, brother of Jesus, or possibly Joseph of Arimathea'? The Maha Meghavahana dynasty c. 250s BC to 400s CE, was an ancient ruling dynasty of Kalinga after the decline of the Mauryan Empire.

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In 1970, William E. Phipps published *'Was Jesus Married'*. Many books on this topic followed, including *'Holy Blood, Holy Grail'*, *'Woman with the Alabaster Jar'*, *'Bloodline of the Holy Grail'* and *'Genesis of the Grail Kings'*. They advanced the theory that Jesus and Mary Magdalene wed and had children. They claim that descendants from this union are alive in the world today. They may number in the thousands, even in the millions, or, as Dan Brown's popular fictional book *"The Da Vinci Code'* suggested there may be only one… or a rare few.

Any book that discusses a bloodline of Jesus is, by its very nature, opening itself up to a critical examination. Many emotional and spiritual feathers are ruffled by this subject.

Christians, by their very faith, cannot question the divinity or virginity of Jesus. To do so would call into doubt the virgin birth, his divine origins, The Apostles Creed and much more upon which the entire Christian faith is based.

THE MIRACULOUS MAGDALENES PHENOMENON IN A BOX OF HAIR DYE

The idea of being a part of this bloodline produced an abundance of claimants. They call themselves 'indigo children,' reincarnations, or 'expected ones' who have visions of Magdalene channeled to them through the Arch Angel Michael, or through crystal skulls or Tarot cards, or stored in their DNA for over 2,000 years. It has been discovered that red hair dye has an amazing propensity for suddenly releasing the 'Magdalene' within.

> 'The depictions of Magdalene with red hair began in 15th century art when she so captivated Renaissance audiences that a new religious star was born. The Renaissance then was Magdalene's era. In northern Europe, where the miracle play had its origin, she starred in such sacred theatrical productions as Dulot's Maria Magdalena, his motet written for Rouen Cathedral, as well as the art of the day. In the south also she appeared both in drama and in painting and sculpture. There she appeared with long hair, usually red, sometimes carrying a jar of ointment, sometimes with the other Marys at the tomb and sometimes alone with the Risen Christ, in some works as a woman made beautiful by her rescue and salvation (as in Perugina, Dolci, Gaddi) and in others as a ravaged penitent (as in Donatello), but always now a central figure, at times complementing and at times in contrast to but often (as in the sculpture of Bologna) virtually overshadowing the more sedate Virgin.'(James T. Baker, *Christian Century,* April 6, 1977, p. 328)

It has become a unique psychological phenomenon in modern times, one that did not exist just a century ago. More than 2,000 women contacted Margaret Starbird, author of *Mary Magdalene, Bride In Exile* (Bear & Company, 2005) introducing themselves as the woman she wrote about, the real Mary Magda-

lene, the reborn or reincarnated bride of Jesus. Yes, many of them used red hair dye.

Now we have several dilemmas. First, by laws of reproduction (think of rabbits) the bloodline of Jesus should have dispersed enough so that millions, if not billions of us would have some of his genes. Hence, millions should also share memories of Jesus or Magdalene.

If you go back far enough, you are sure to find at least one famous person in your bloodline. Do you have memories of actually being Cleopatra, Napoleon, Genghis Khan, King Louise IV, or Columbus? Probably not. Many might worry about your state of mind if you did.

Ideally, if the memories of all Magdalene claimants were valid, then we can expect all of them or at least some of them to agree on key points. Unfortunately, no two Magdalene claimants tell the same story.

They don't agree on their past, not the birth of 'their' children, or how many children they had, where the real Magdalene was born or died, her real parents, the color of her hair (Red? Black? Blonde?) nor the color of Jesus' eyes, something the real Magdalene must have gazed into often.

The term 'Rashomon effect' is used by psychologists to describe the effect of subjective perceptions on recollection. The phenomenon is named after a 1950 film by Japanese director Akira Kurosawa. It is applied to psychological fabrications (disorders based either on pathological lying or on inability to distinguish real from false images in the mind). The term is used to describe first-hand eyewitness accounts that should not, but do vary widely from witness to witness. Are some lying? Or are they simply in an over-reactive, hyperactive mind state? In other words, the mind makes stuff up and convinces itself that it is true. It is the same psychological effects at work in the minds of these Magdalenes.

The search for desposyni has become a joke, a topic of disdain and ridicule in the west where it is associated with publicity-seeking frauds, delusional nut cases, menopausal women, tarot cards, crystal balls, and messages from archangels and UFO's[10].

Circumstances had arisen in Kashmir that compelled me to publically make a statement about my genealogy and why I might have an interest in the DNA of Yuz Asaf/Jesus. Reluctantly, I emphasized my own family bloodline and my own quest for ancestors. I did this because someone had died who was pivotal to the DNA Project, and I wanted to keep it on track, keep it family oriented. For years, Laurence Gardner (1943-2010) and I engaged in a friendship that would last until his death. When the DNA Project at Roza Bal tomb began falling apart, he compiled the 'probable' Merovingian genealogy of my entire family at least 60 generations back. It was something that he personally believed in. I showed this to the authorities in charge of Roza Bal, to indicate there was more than one potential family line that had an interest

in the DNA from the tomb. This was my Plan B to save the Roza Bal project, but it too failed.

Years later I felt deeply embarrassed by this. It went against everything- all the science and logic that I was demanding from others. The original context got lost among the ensuing flood of accusations and allegations, fake claimants, fake bloodlines such as Michael LaFosse a.k.a. Michael James Alexander Stewart of Albany and numerous drama queen fraudsters.

Kashmir is a great distance away from the philistine influences of the western world, away from the influence of popular books about the family of Jesus. However, the region also has its own problems with frauds and fakes, their reaction to the caste system of the Brahmans. False information could exist here as easily as anywhere. Was the Kashmiri family any more reliable than the western claimants? The scrolls they claim to have linking themselves with Jesus and with the tomb would have been most valuable, but these have gone missing since the death of Bashrat Shaheen. Perhaps the family has hidden them, waiting for their own opportunity for fame and fortune. Perhaps the scrolls are fakes, or never existed. We have to wait and see.

There are however, other ancient books from which we can draw information. There are many different "Bibles" that we can turn to for clues. They include the "Dead Sea Scrolls" from Israel, the "Nag Hamadi Library" from Egypt, the "Kebra Nagast" from Africa, the "Bee Bible" from China, still a part of the canon of Eastern Orthodox Christians. We can gain some insights from them. Claimants have died. Evidence has gone missing. The quest is difficult but not impossible. It appears that the primary purpose of writing the Bible was to follow a specific bloodline, but why? Who cares which bloodline built an ark or parted the seas or ascended to the skies?

Family lineages are established in the very first few verses of the Bible with the Elohim (it means gods, or the God-but who were they?) then with Adam and Eve, finally culminating with the birth of Jesus 3,000 years later. The book of Genesis records the descendants of the human genealogy from Adam and Eve. The enumerated genealogy in chapters 4, 5 and 11 reports the lineal male descent to Abraham, including the age at which each patriarch fathered his named son and the number of years he lived thereafter. The genealogy for Cain is given in Chapter 4 and the genealogy for Seth is in Chapter 5. The genealogy in Chapter 10- recording the male descendants of Noah- is known as the 'Table of Nations'. The genealogy of Jesus through either one or both of his earthly parents (Mary and Joseph) is given by two passages from the Gospels, *Matthew 1:2–16* and *Luke 3:23–38*. Both of them trace Christ's line back to King David and Abraham; Luke traces the line all the way back to Adam. These lists are identical between Abraham and David, but they differ from that point onward.

All major cultures on earth maintained a record of their family histories along lines somewhat parallel with the Bible. Much has been wiped out, lost

to conquerors, robbers, and the passage of time, but we have salvage enough to follow the common threads.

The beginnings of art in cave shelters in the Nubian-Sudan of North Africa, Ethiopia, Egypt and along the entire Nile Delta, these all express concerns with our place among the stars and the meaning of things, the foundations of science and religion. These concerns have been fundamental to our survival and development and appeared almost simultaneously around the world.

The Rig Vedas go even further than the Bible, establishing not only creation of the Universe along the same lines, but adding trillions of years of cycles that each created Universe is destined for (multi verses or met-or parallel universes).

Brahmins are the priestly caste of the Vedas, much as Cohens are the Jewish priest caste of the Torah. China traces it ancient lineages in a similar way. The oldest lineages are part of Sima Qian's "Annals of the Yin."

Xie (c. 2070 – c. 1600 BCE) was miraculously conceived by Jiandi, a wife of Emperor Ku. Xie helped 'Yu the Great' to control the Great Flood and for his service was granted the Yellow River valley empire of *Shang* (up, above, rise etc., as in Shanghai, a port above the sea, or Shangri-La, a place where teachers of higher learning gathered) as his new homeland. Tens of thousands of bronze, jade, stone, bone, and ceramic artifacts have been unearthed there, attesting to the rapid global spread of knowledge and technology from Mesopotamia to around the globe. Ancient China traces its entire lineage back to just three sovereigns and five Emperors (or five Dynasties). The ancient Korean lineages are as old as the Biblical lineages, and appear online at Wikipedia. All believe their origins had something to do with entities from the skies.

We wonder how man took this huge leap of imagination from terrestrial life on earth to galactic life while still using primitive Bronze Age metals to plow fields with the help of newly domesticated cattle. It was only *this* recently that man invented the wheel. By this time legends and mythologies of sky gods that began in the Silver Age had become the foundation for Biblical records by the Iron Age. Where did we get these advanced ideas from? This is where the origins of the ancient alien theory enter our thoughts.

I did not embrace the ancient alien theory because I read Eric von Daniken's books, or Zechariah Sitchen, or because I watched Steven Spielberg films like 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind." These came much later in human history. I embraced the ancient alien theory while I was studying Biblical history. I encountered the oldest written descriptions of UFO's and these came from pharaohs and world leaders first. Thutmose III - 1504-1450 B.C., gave us the first official written accounts of flying machines, including detailed descriptions, on papyrus scrolls. (Reader's Digest – 'Mysteries of the Unexplained'1/26/01, pages 207-209). Around 2000 BCE,

Abraham and Sarah left for their Promised Land in Canaan (Genesis 12–25). Scholars place Moses and the Exodus at about the same time that Thutmoses III ruled as pharaoh. Thus, if a pharaoh recorded flying machines in the sky during this era, then Moses' encounters with gods and strange lights from the skies and parting seas are within the realm of probability too. Moses got his powers from God and the angels 'from the sky.' Pharaoh Thutmose tells us they were actually there. He saw their vehicles.

There are Roman eye-witness accounts written just a few years before and after the birth of Christ, including Julius Obsequens (translated by Lycosthenes). The Old and New Testament shaped Judaism and Christianity around such experiences, specifically Genesis Chapter 6:4; Deuteronomy 2:10-37; 9:2; Numbers 13:33; 14:6-9; 1 Samuel 17:4; Joshua 11:21-22; 21:11; Judges 1:20; Matthew Chapter 24:15, 37; I Peter 3:18, 19; II Peter Chapter 2:4-9; and the Book of Jude verses 6 and 7.

The Bible mentions an unnatural light that led the magi, quite similar in description to the light that led Moses. It stopped when they stopped, and flew ahead to guide them. Alexander the Great saw them just 300 years before the birth of Christ and described them as 'flying shields in the sky'. The entities in control of these craft did not have direct contact with Alexander. There *was* direct contact with Ezekial, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. Paintings of flying craft are included specifically in religious art sponsored by the Catholic Church depicting the nativity and the crucifixion. Monsignor Corrado Balducci, a theologian of the Vatican Curia, and an insider close to the Pope, has gone on Italian national television five times to proclaim that extraterrestrials contact *is* real. The Catholic Church has been forward thinking and accepting of UFO's and aliens, far in advance of the general public. I often wonder why.

U.S. President Truman Harry S. Truman followed President Roosevelt in 1945. As President, Truman made some of the most crucial decisions in history. He took his nation through the establishment of the United Nations, development of nuclear weapons, the rise of the Cold War and the Korean War. How information was controlled during the famous Roswell UFO incident in July, 1947, was also the decision of President Truman.

The world had gone through two horrific world wars. By this time in our history, flying objects in the sky might be weather balloons, friendly airplanes or they might be nuclear bombs. Knowing the difference became a matter of national security-a matter of life and death. If the flying objects don't fall into one of the known descriptions, that too becomes a matter of great national security. Ever since the Roswell incident the world is not privy to any information in *any* country concerning anything about UFO's. They fall in to an entirely unique category of silence seemingly adhered to by all world powers- a silence ushered in as we entered the age of space flight and danger-

ous bombs capable of world destruction.. Why? I cannot imagine what is going on behind closed doors.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in 1954, purportedly met with aliens in secrecy at Holloman Air Force Base in 1955. Russia and the USA had secretly tested hundreds of nuclear bombs and there was a very real possibility of a nuclear war starting. Within three years of his visit to Holloman, Eisenhower formed NASA (National Astronautics and Space Administration) in 1958. On the surface it appeared to be a space agency. In fact it was and is controlled by the military and all information from and about NASA falls directly under various acts of national security. Even NASA photos taken on Mars and the moon are carefully screened before release to the public. Every astronaut and thousands of airline pilots worldwide have reported UFO's, but the information is classified as national security and not available to the public. Jimmy Carter was the first President to speak openly about UFO sightings. Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush spoke of their knowledge of UFO's. President Nixon went to an Air Force base in Homestead Florida purportedly to see aliens and UFOs.

Richard Hoagland was the Science Advisor to President Nixon. He had all the "inside information" about NASA. Mr. Hoagland wrote, "NASA ostensibly is a civilian agency exercising control over aeronautical and space activities sponsored by the United States. What the Congress, the press and the American taxpayers get to see of NASA's ultimate activities — including untouched images and data regarding what's really on the Moon, on Mars or anywhere else across the solar system — is totally dependent on whether the President of the United States (and/or his legal surrogates in the Department of Defense and the "intelligence community") has already secretly classified that data. This is directly contrary to everything we've been led to believe regarding NASA..."[11] "But contrary to common public and media perception that NASA is an open, strictly civilian scientific institution, is the legal fact that the Space Agency was quietly founded as a direct adjunct to the Department of Defense, tasked with specifically assisting the national security of the United States."(See endnote 11)

We have come this far. We openly discuss UFO's. Is it safe now to include Jesus in these discussions? Are we advanced enough for that? What does all this have to do with Christianity's past and future? Everything. In my point of view, these sightings validate the Bible and Christianity in unexpected ways. Read the parables of Jesus. What was he trying to tell us when he said, 'In my Father's house are many mansions-I go to prepare a place for you?" Think about what this means. Think about SETI's search for life on other planets. Was Jesus foretelling SETI?

Jesus may be a God to some, a prophet to others, but thinking about him as 'Captain of the Star Fleet" is a startling, fresh new concept. Jesus said repeatedly that his true mission was to prepare our future in space (the

heavens). I have a whole new respect for Jesus and for Christianity when viewed this way. The Ten Commandments may actually be rules for good conduct not merely global, but universally acknowledged by all civilizations in the galaxy!

LIFE ON METEORITES

DNA recovered from the remaining ancient tombs may be the final most precious gift our ancestors have left us. When we journey to the stars we take our DNA history with us. It is the code that identifies us as water-based carbon life, not inert matter or silicon (artificial intelligence). Ever since Genesis and Elohim, we talk about angels, demons, alien invasions and ask why they would come here. Water, gold, all precious elements are the same throughout the universe. Gold on Mars or on a meteorite from a million galaxies away would be identical to gold on earth. No need to come here to rob us of minerals. The only real variable in the universe is life itself.

When the Elohim and Nephilim walked the earth no one feared them or remarked they were horrifying or 'different' in any way from us. We weren't attacked or robbed. We didn't engage in warfare with them. 'Wings' were never mentioned as part of their anatomy. Wings weren't feathers in an array of brilliant colors, lengths, and shapes. 'Angels' didn't steal our minerals or grab our children to eat for dinner.

Instead, the first information we are given is that they came to "wed" beautiful young girls from earth who bore them children. If this was a scientific experiment by aliens then it would not have been possible unless their DNA and genes are somewhat compatible with ours. This suggests that planets like earth and life like us exist elsewhere, and may have DNA similar to Elohim and Nephilim, Abraham and Sarah, David and Jesus, you and me.

From extremophiles living in the clouds above us or in volcanic plumes under incredible ocean pressures, to vast green forests, from slime and bacteria to humans, we are all from the same 4-letter DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) strand we identify as A, C, T and G. The sequence has the capacity to represent information like a binary code for use on a computer. Biological DNA represents the information which directs the functions of a living thing. The order or sequence of these bases determines the information available for building and maintaining an organism, similar to the way in which letters of the alphabet appear in a certain order to form words and sentences. Scientists have estimated that over the course of Earth's history, anywhere between one and four billion species have already existed on this planet, and all were created with this 4-letter DNA code. For example, there is considerable overlap between the DNA of a person and an oak tree. This overlap is much lower than the nominal 98.5% overlap between chimps and people, but the person/tree overlap shows a common ancestor. Due to climate change, disease, genetic obsolescence, over-predation or any number of other factors, the majority of these species are now extinct. Of these billions of species,

roughly 50 million still survive. Now we can even manipulate DNA between these species.

Recently the genes of a spider were blended with the genes of a goat. The goat now produces milk from which a super-strong web-like substance can be extracted. [12] Could this also work between inter-galactic species? Yes, if other factors are reasonably equal too, such as gases (oxygen-breathing) and the quality and percentage of water needed for our kind of life. There may be a clue in *John 14:2* that we glanced over earlier-

> 'In my Father's house are many mansions (life-supporting planets?) if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.'(Would he prepare a place for us in a strange alien environment that would make humans feel uncomfortable or require special adaptations?)

Respected world leaders are putting everything on the line to come forward with facts *already* known to them. Some world respected leaders have already stated that the universe is teaming with life that is aware of us and communicating with us. How are they so certain? They openly discuss how this impacts on the coming world economy. [13] "Contact: Learning from Outer Space" was the description for the GCF's (Global Competitiveness Forum) panel. The Conference featured over 2000 attendees representing 47 countries. Over 100 eminent leaders, executives and intellectuals spoke, including business and political elites such as former British and Canadian Prime Ministers, Tony Blair and Jean Chretien; Jim Albaugh, President and CEO of Boeing; Andy Bird, chairman of Walt Disney International; Jared Cohen, Director of Google ideas, famed astrophysicist Dr. Michio Kaku, and many others. The advice they got was that extraterrestrial life is real, and they should start paying attention to the business implications.

Many world business leaders are eager to learn more about key issues concerning UFOs and extraterrestrial life and how these impact on economic competitiveness. The GCF Conference was soon followed by Canadian Minister of Defense in May 2013; the Hon. Paul Hellyer testified his Government knows of 4 alien races actively visiting Earth.[14] Billions of earth-like planets probably exist in our Milky Way galaxy alone. In this case every hypothesis about Elohim and the bloodline of Jesus put forth in this book may be true and may be verified in our lifetime. This is an exciting prospect, a real game-changer for mankind.

Elohim, whoever they were and where ever they came from, have a genetic history too. Renewing DNA has long been a premier topic among scientists who anticipate that man may one day live in space colonies. With genetically engineered DNA, different species can adapt to water, air, gravity and bacterial changes affecting life on different planets.

To keep evolution on a favorable track, space colonists would have to be screened for genetic problems, but that would not solve all their problems.

Due to the 'closed' gene pool, eventually everyone in a space colony would be related over time (inbreeding) and this is not good for evolution or biodiversity.

It is important to recover as much ancient DNA as possible from Biblical graves and the ancestors of Jesus. These ancestors represent an important chapter in human history. Ancient DNA is our path back to the Nephilim and Elohim of Genesis 6. Where the Bible ends, SETI steps in and continues the search for life in the universe and for who we are as one of many species in the universe.

BLOOD TYPE SURPRISES

Before we can even begin to consider the genetic surprises of other life in space, we are still uncovering surprises right here on earth. In 2011, a team of scientists analyzed the DNA of four Pharaohs of the 18th dynasty: Amenhotep III, his son Akhenaten, Smenkhare (brother or son to Akhenaten), and grandson Tutankhamen (King Tut). They were all Haplogroup R1b (most common to Indo-Europeans) and they were also a match to the family of the Czar Nicholas 11 of Russia[15] who was Y-DNA Haplogroup R1b and mtDNA Haplogroup T, (began 10,000 years ago). This is found with particularly high concentrations around the eastern Baltic Sea and the Urals. It was an unexpected surprise to find it among Egyptian pharaohs.[16]

During the time of Ramsees III, who was of the R1b1-**b2** Y-DNA haplogroup (most common among South Asians, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines) the 'Sea People' were a confederacy of seafaring raiders from the Aegean and Europe who sailed around the eastern Mediterranean and invaded Egypt toward the end of the Bronze Age [Encyclopedia Britannica online/Sea People]. The sea people were documented during the late 19th dynasty and especially during the year of Ramses III of the 20th Dynasty, when they tried to control Egyptian territory. This explains the unexpected pharaonic DNA.

The Egyptian Pharaoh Merneptah explicitly refers to them as "the foreign-countries (or 'peoples') of the sea" in his Great Karnak Inscription. Vikings already masters at sea, may have been a part of these sojourns. So too the South Asians of Thailand and Malaysia. Looking at a map, one can see how they arrived simply by following the coastline around the tip of India and up through the Red Sea. This route would send vast and diverse populations of sea people directly to Egypt's shores. The beginning of the trade is hinted at in Egyptian hieroglyphic inscriptions during the New Kingdom period about 3,600 years ago. The Bible mentions a sea route to South East Asia and as far as China that took three years round trip (1 Kings 10:22; II Chronicles 9:21). Even before the Roman Empire these were known as the Clove Route and the Cinnamon Route. Josephus the Historian wrote of their significance.

Blood from several pharaohs is type AB, which is rare and exists in only 1% of the world's population. This is the same blood type recovered from the Shroud of Turin and the Face Cloth of Jesus called the Sudarium. [17] No DNA

has been successfully recovered from the Shroud of Turin [18] and probably never will- due to deterioration and centuries of improper handling.

Freud hypothesized that Moses was not Jewish, but was born into Ancient Egyptian nobility and was perhaps Akhenaten himself. He suggested that Akhenaten and Moses were the same man. He mentions this in his book *Moses and Monotheism*[19]. The DNA of Pharaohs Tutankhamun, Akhenaten and Amenhotep III were European R1b1-**b2**, not the Levantine/Egyptian R1b1-**a** (seen on a Discovery Channel documentary about the pharaonic DNA studies). R1b1b2 is estimated to have arisen approximately 4,000 to 8,000 years ago in southwest Asia and to have spread into Europe and North Africa from there. If Moses and Aaron were R1b1-b2 like the Pharaohs, with DNA close to the Czar of Russia (R1b), then what would the DNA of Aaron's descendent Jesus be?

MORE DILEMAS

To return to the search for desposyni, the problem is not that it *could not* have happened, but there is a gap in the next generations of names. That is all it took, the loss of just one son or daughter who lived and died un-noted by historians, and the trail is lost, the continuity is broken. Only DNA can restore the family line now.

The Biblical Noah is well known on the Silk Road. No less than three countries claim to hold his grave. People living there today still think of him as their ancestor grandfather and carry his family name with pride. The Silk Route from Ethiopia to India and the Himalayas was a 'stroll in the park,' a summer vacation, an opportunity to visit kinfolk who had married and moved far away, or attend famous foreign universities, and to gather trade items for the coming years. Boundaries and distinctions that we make today were not so clear-cut then. Religions, philosophies, boundaries and cultures were more syncretic then, lacking the strict boundaries, criteria and definitions we apply today.

Great India Rajas often had Roman and Greek names too, and wrote their edicts in Brahmi, Roman, Greek, and Aramaic to facilitate commerce over vast regions. This was a very cosmopolitan ancient world. Jesus' life in the Himalayas at altitudes between 5,000 and 15,000 feet would be very different from the stereotypical images of a barefoot prophet in the deserts of Sinai. And yet the evidence is overwhelming that he took the Old Silk Route to India and the Himalayas.

There are thousands of books to read about the life of Jesus, his mother, brothers, disciples, crucifixion plots, comparative religions...and even more to read about Magdalene, secret societies, the Holy Grail and the Grail child, Crusaders, Knights Templar, René le Château, and Arthurian lore connected to the 'Holy Family.'

However, if you want to explore the survival of Jesus from the crucifixion, and how he spent his life in India, then you have less than half dozen scholar-

ly books to read in the entire world, books that were not 'channeled' or derived from dubious origins. The information is scanty, but the evidence is compelling, and *is* supported in the Bible. Why is this so hard to prove? Because it is a matter of blind faith how we interpret the events of the Bible. We do not consider alternate interpretations for descriptions of those events. It's the 'glass half-empty/half-full' argument.

The more I read about the tomb of Jesus called Roza Bal, and the more evidence I examined, especially the remaining relics, the more I am convinced that Yuz Asaf is Jesus and he is, or once was there.

PROPHETS, GURUS AND YOU

On this journey, one glaring problem becomes apparent. Religious differences and religious intolerance has an impact on nearly every site I visited, often threatening them and endangering them. No side had respect for the other's God, nor their dead, nor their holy relics.

Although we connect religions back to a common origin, we differ widely in interpretations of the 'rules'- of what constitutes the 'true God' and proper worship. Some religious beliefs are irrational and beyond comprehension. Some, like rat, snake or phallic worship seem childlike, outrageous, even dangerous. Yet people are willing to die for these beliefs. We are programmed to follow goals created for us by our family, religion, culture, government, and peers. We block out all logic and reason, but what if we are wrong? What if they are wrong?

As the war with the Taliban raged on around me, the rhetoric was all about jihad and religious causes for God/Allah. As 9-11 unfolded in New York, I stood amidst Muslims in Pakistan and Kashmir who were cheering. We knew immediately that this was the handiwork of Osama bin Laden. Rumors passed among grocery vendors, tuck tuck drivers and shepherds for months-even years ahead of events. Osama was right there in our own back yard. The camel wireless was ahead of the CIA on most occassions, and so I often knew more about Osama than I did about American troops stationed in Afghanistan and Pakistan. There was a time or two when someone would ask me if I wanted to meet Osama, as casually as though we would have an afternoon tea. I didn't know if they were serious about these offers. Sometimes I thought about going in to a room and sitting on the floor across from him, sipping tea and chatting casually. It was the leaving, the getting out part that I had trouble imagining. I doubt he would simply shake hands and hold the door open for me, and so I passed off any suggestions that I should ever meet Osama. I had been to Abbottabad several times. I was not surprised that he had been killed there.

The Bamyan Buddha was blown up. Ahmad Shah Massoud and Daniel Pearl died horrible deaths at the hands of Al Qaida and Taliban. The death tolls were mounting in India, Israel, Sudan, Kenya, and Tanzania. Even quiet

Buddhist Thailand was being wracked by invigorated terror attacks. This was an all-out war against the world, organized and well-funded global mass murder hiding behind religion. Jihad is a convenient term used to justify all kinds of atrocities against fellow men (and unwanted wives). It reached a new low when even the mentally ill and pack mules and dogs were strapped with explosives and sent out in the street to maim and kill people (e.g. Srinagar, Kashmir, November 2004).

WHOSE SIDE IS GOD ON?

I have watched Muslims pray intently, fully believing that God is listening and will answer. Christians do this, and Hindus too. This raises questions about what is religion- and what is spirituality. A long time ago, religions were more syncretic, more blended, and not as strictly compartmentalized as today's religious definitions.

When two sides go to war and call on the name of God or Allah for victory, they both believe they are praying to the same supreme God. If you are an atheist… or if you believe that God is Allah, Jehovah, Zeus or Brahma… does your name for God or your religion influence the outcome? Is there a 'right' God and a 'wrong' God?

If one religion promises 72 virgins, wine and fine silks in Heaven, do the faithful get their wish[20]? Or is Heaven an entry through pearly gates for angelic souls that don't need wine and sex…a place where you will sit at the right hand of God and be filled with love?

Will you languish in Hell paying for your sins? Or did Jesus do that for you on the cross? Will you be reborn a thousand times as the result of your karma until your soul finally reaches perfection? If so, then we seem to have no need for DNA and family genealogies. You may be reborn into an entirely different family, or even a different species.

Whose vision is right? What happens to all the souls who were 'wrong'? Are people of different faiths sent to different kinds of heavens? What Heaven is my grandmother in? Where shall I find her again? Something isn't making sense. How are we to know the truth? Are there clues-tests-rules- guidelines to help us decide? We are told that our souls, our fate for eternity may ride upon making the right choices now, *before* we die. Our choices, our religious practices and beliefs are something worth considering but how do we decide?

SHOPPING FOR A PROPHET

A prophet is someone who declares that he has been contacted by God or angels or spirits from another world. He has messages from the divine and he has been chosen as the intermediary, the messenger between that world and this world. In the beginning, prophets and their followers are a 'sect'- a 'cult'.

If one gets enough followers, then the cult graduates to a mainstream religion regardless the proof or lack of. How can we believe any of their claims without witnesses or proof? Are there clues in the behavior and integrity of different prophets?

Some better known prophets include Zoroaster, Moses, Mahavir (founder of the Jains), Jesus, Muhammad, Guru Nanak (founder of the Sikhs in the Punjab), Ghulam Ahmad (Ahmaddis), David Koresh and Joseph Smith (U.S.A. Mormons, Latter Day Saints) Sun Myung Moon (Unification Church, Korea), Sergey Anatolyevitch Torop (Russian, Church of the Last Testament) Alan John Miller (Jesus of Australia) and Sai Baba (India). Several of these prophets had scandalous charges made against them, ranging from sexual abuse of children, taking immoral sexual advantage of their followers, encouraging sexual experimentation, fraud, money laundering, tax evasion, and even murder. Yet they have millions of devotees.

Consider Osho-

> Osho (1931-1990) gained international fame as a prophet and spiritual leader. Osho, or Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, was born into a Jain family in Central India. He was a charismatic and gifted speaker who became the leader of a worldwide new spiritual movement. He does not fit the image of a simple humble guru or spiritual guide. Like Sun Myung Moon, he made millions of dollars from his books, lectures and followers, and spent lavishly on his own lifestyle, which included 20 Rolls Royce cars. He encouraged sexual pleasures that were not allowed in Jain traditions of austerity and non-attachment. His image soon tarnished, and he fell out of favor and faced many legal battles.
>
> Yet many of his quotes are profound and some of his ideas have endured. People buy his books and feel that they have gained valuable help from them. In many ways, Osho was as deeply insightful as Buddha or Jesus. Can Osho be regarded as a "true" prophet? What criteria should we apply to determine a real prophet from a false prophet? Is the truth in their lofty words of insight and wisdom, or is truth in the actions of the man himself? Osho said-
>
> 'Guru means one who has gravitation, around whom you suddenly feel as if you are being pulled. The guru is a tremendous magnet. Adolf Hitler has that charisma; millions of people were pulled towards him. What is the difference between a mere charismatic leader and an enlightened guru? If you are pulled towards a man and that pull creates a slavery- that is not the guru. That man may have charisma may have magnetic power — maybe his great intelligence, his physical beauty, or his sheer vitality and energy pulls you in — but it will be an infatuation. You will be obsessed with this man, but you will be off your center. Avoid such people; these are the greatest mischief-mongers in the world. Alexander, Hitler, Napoleon— these are

the people who have created great havoc, not because they are right, but because they have charisma and people feel like surrendering to them, to their ideals.

Mizra Tahir Ahmad (1928-2003) Fourth Caliph of the Ahmaddis[21] said-

'No religion can entertain the idea of employing force to spread its message. Swords can win territories, but not hearts. Force can bend heads, but not minds.'

A study of prophets is a study about their lives, their moral behavior, their attitudes, and how they achieved the fruits of their labors. The study is not in the words, but the deeds. We gauge their moral compass through their personal habits and actions. A man who preaches eloquently about the sanctity of life while blood drips from his hands is saying one thing, but doing another. That is a false prophet. The Sermon on the Mount says it best-

Matthew 7:15–23

'Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit, you will recognize them…every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.'

The world is full of bad leaders and bad prophets- from reincarnated gods and bad dictators to stumbling buffoons, but some are surely worse than others. They gain power, they gain fame and control, but that doesn't make them smart or good, or even vaguely nice. All reason seems to be suspended when people follow them, support them, and believe in them. It happens a lot in religions and in politics too.

SAVING OLD STONES AND BONES

Not many people are looking for evidence of Jesus after the crucifixion, especially in places like India and Tibet, and so critical evidence there is often ignored. If a coin found in a cave in Afghanistan commemorates Esau, or King Jesus, then it "must be someone else, but not Christ." Why not? The answer is always "because he died on the cross. He was never a 'real' king.

We are missing clues right in front of us because we do not expect to find Jesus living after the crucifixion. In Murree, Pakistan I stood gazing at a few stones placed behind a barbed-wire fence, stones once carried, it is said, by Jesus himself, to be placed over the grave he just dug for his mother, Mary.

This grave has since been bombed and desecrated. Nothing remains now except these few broken stones, not even the exact location of the original grave is known. With tears in my eyes, I placed a handful of yellow silk roses on the stones and hoped this wasn't really the grave of Mother Mary. What a tragic ending for such a noble lady. This isn't how her story should have ended, here under a squalid desecrated remote mountain transmission tower. She was supposed to be in a grave next to her parents back in Jerusalem, or transported to Heaven by the angels.

Perhaps Jesus secretly moved her remains here to hide them. After all, her first tomb was found empty by the third day, and so everyone speculated that she was taken to Heaven by the angels. Noah brought Adams' bones on the Ark to rebury them later. Moses grave was hidden, and Joseph before him. During the Exodus, Moses brought the bones of Joseph for reburial. It would make sense to bring Mother Mary's bones to a secret place, one that perhaps only she and Jesus planned for well in advance.

Mankind does not need more Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists or Christians arguing over old bones and stones. Mankind needs the truth. Without the science, truth is a free-for-all full of speculations, guesses, hope, and blind faith. This is why I stayed through the hardest of times, and why I wrote this book, not because I know the truth, but because I do not, and neither do they. Whether we examine the Biblical ancient alien theory, the desposyni- Merovingian connections, Jesus' survival of crucifixion, his grave in Kashmir, or terrorism's role on past and present world events, we are searching for God in dark places muddied by half-baked religious fantasies built on sandy foundations. So let's simplify this search and start with the basics first.

The first problem is God. Either He is or He isn't. Either God exists or does not. We have nothing we can point to and say, "That is God" or "That god is an alien." God seems illusive-unprovable. Was Jesus just another barefoot delusional prophet imagining God? That is the first question to ponder, and the most critical. Who was the Biblical God? Everything else depends upon how we regard the experiences of Abraham, Moses, and Jesus with their God.





The important thing in science is not so much to obtain new facts as to discover new ways of thinking about them. William Bragg

Is the Bible all allegory, or part allegory? Can we make sense of it? Let's understand what allegory is. Allegory has an immense power of illustrating complex ideas and concepts in a digestible, simple way that we can understand and relate to. Through allegory, a message is communicated by means of symbolic figures, actions or symbolic representation. Allegory is generally treated as a figure of rhetoric; a rhetorical allegory is a form of representation conveying meaning other than the words that are spoken. An allegory conveys its hidden message through symbolic figures, actions, imagery, and/or real events, or even through musical compositions.

The universe was not made in 6 days. We know this because there is a trail of millions of years of gradual evolution. The universe is 14 billion years old. 'Days' must be allegory. Can we figure it out? Sure! Divide 14 billion years by 7 (days). Each 'day' represents 2 billion years. Each day represents an epoch of time. In the last 3.6 billion years, simple cells (prokaryotes) appeared. Life on earth as we know it today evolved 2 billion years ago, between the Biblical 6th and 7th day. The order, sequencing, and timing of Genesis are uncannily close to accurate when interpreted this way. For humans still pushing an iron plow, this thought process is a stunning achievement.

Consider *Genesis 1-*

> "In the beginning (Time), there was nothing. Then God created light (Energy), and separated (Space) light (C) from dark and Firmaments from the waters (Matter)." This is another way of saying-

E=MC2

E represents units of energy, **M** represents units of mass, and **C2** is the speed of light squared or multiplied by itself.

We don't know where or how life began on earth (nor anywhere in the Universe) except that here it began as germs and viruses from RNA on the surface of clay. Clays have played a significant role in origins of life studies. RNA was a key molecule that was utilized by the earliest life on Earth to store genetic information and to catalyze chemical reactions. RNA it is an essential ingredient and building block in DNA. RNA began using DNA that was already here, and was especially suited as an aid to memory storage. This allowed for developing more complex life forms. RNA was catalyzed on clays with charged surfaces, such as montmorillonite. When moisture is added, cell building begins. There is also a Biblical allegory for this process in *Genesis 2:6-7-*

> 'And a mist was going up from the land (steam and water vapors released by meteorites and from deep inside the hot, cooling earth) and was watering the whole face of the ground. Then the Lord God formed man of dust (clay) from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.'

Oxygen (the air we breathe) is the third-most abundant element in the universe, forged in the superhot, super dense core of stars. But to become the air we breathe requires additional processes.

EVOLUTION

A discussion of evolution brings up the touchiest differences between science and religion. Roughly 2.8 billion years ago, after earth took over 11 billion years to cool down and create the processes of land and water, then cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae microbes began photosynthesis: the process of using sunshine, water and carbon dioxide to produce carbohydrates and oxygen. Like the plants, animals also began in the sea (Biblical 5th and 6th days-2.8 billion years ago.) And that is where all life remained for at least 600 million years. In the absence of a protective ozone layer, the land was bathed in lethal levels of UV radiation. Once photosynthesis had raised atmospheric oxygen levels high enough, the ozone layer formed and only then was it possible for living things to venture safely onto land. All plants on Earth incorporate symbiotic cyanobacteria (chloroplasts) to do their photosynthesis for them down to this day. The making of oxygen is the first event that life on earth achieved. Then the protozoan lineage (which would eventually lead to fungi and animals) and the algae (which would lead to plants) evolved. True plants probably arose 570 million years ago, while complex animals arose 575 million years ago (the Vendian, or Ediacara fauna Period). This divergence of life, once the process began, then happened rapidly. We still share 60-70% of our DNA with simple algae, oak trees and bananas. We are still closely related to mushrooms. We became distinctly human about 400,000 years ago, nearing the end of the Biblical sixth day.

According to the Bible, God selected Adam as progenitor of a very special lineage. God had choices because several human branches including Homo sapiens, Neanderthals, and Denisovans, named after the cave in Siberia where their half million year old remains were found. Only recently has science developed the methods needed to extract and date DNA of such great age, and it is changing everything we thought we knew about the evolution of mankind and our walk out of Africa.[22]-[23] God selected Adam from one of the modern lineages, and his sons chose wives from among these lineages.

We have three interpretations from this point forward. **(1.)** God did it just as the Bible says. He made Adam, the first prototype, from scratch using clay or dust. Adam was not from one of these early human lineages. **(2.)** The gods, the Elohim, intervened and created Adam, or in some way altered the genetics from one of these lineages. We are the product of genetic tinkering by extraterrestrials. **(3.)** It's all about Darwinian evolution. No intervention happened or was necessary. Life happens everywhere in the Universe. God and Elohim are made up fictions. What version do you believe?

Examining rare carbonaceous chondrite meteorites (only nine such meteorites have been discovered on Earth), NASA astrobiologist Dr. Richard B. Hoover found the fossilized remains of micro-organisms arriving on meteorites that are just like those found underfoot on earth.
He said-

> 'The exciting thing is that they are in many cases recognizable and can be associated very closely with the generic species here on earth.' (JournalofCosmology.com/Life100 March 2011).

Is the universe being seeded with life arriving on meteorites, remnants of former worlds in other galaxies? According to a recent scientific release by NASA, yes! [24] The building blocks of life were formed at the same time as the Universe. The next step in their finished appearance depends upon the environment of the planet, the type of air and gases, the air pressures and gravity, amount of water and sunlight, et cetera.

For scientists, the mystery is the process by which *any* inert ingredients can became hardwired to work together-to replicate, to become conscious life in myriad shapes and forms.

The fifth chapter of Genesis is the genealogy of Adam and Eve. It gives us the ages of some of Adam's children and their children's children. Many times in the Old Testament we see the life span of humans reaching great ages, over 900 years. The Bible tells us -

> Adam lived 930 years. (Genesis 5:5)
> Seth lived 912 years. (Genesis 5:8)
> Methuselah lived 969 years. (Genesis 5:27)
> Noah lived 950 years. (Genesis 9:29)

Einstein's Theory of Relativity takes this into account. This is called 'time dilation' -the effect of gravity and speed on humans travelling in space. It happens to astronauts in minuscule amounts. Speeds are prohibitively slow for any quick forms of transportation to the stars, even if it took 900 years round trip at the speed of light. Other technologies are required (wormholes, warp drives, et cetera) yet scientists believe this is possible and work on these ideas every day.

Traveling at or near the speed of light through space, or utilizing worm-holes could account for the seemingly great ages of Biblical men. A NASA scientist, Harold "Sonny" White, is currently working on a space travel 'warp speed' concept. Instead of taking 75,000 years to go to Alpha Centauri, it could be done in two weeks.[25] Jesus could be living his life somewhere 'out there'- not subjected to ageing on earth. Alternately, his clone or his frozen DNA could be preserved. Thus his return, alluded to in the Book of Revelations, is theoretically and scientifically possible in several ways.

Genesis starts right off with discussions of advanced humans who could read and write, build cities, and experience flights and ascensions to 'Heaven' (Space). Genesis 5:23-24 mentions that Enoch lived for 365 years on Earth,

then "Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him." God took Jesus to Heaven a few times too.

Mark, 16:19-

'After the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.'

Luke 24:50-51-

'He led them to Bethany, then lifted up his hands and blessed them. Then he parted from them and was carried up into Heaven.'

Jesus's expected return is known as the Second Coming, the Second Advent, the Parousia. Jesus talked about a second coming on a number of occasions. For example, in *John 14:3*, he says "I will come back."

In *Matthew 16:27* he says "For the Son of Man is going to return in his Father's glory with his angels." We know this can happen in several ways.

We have choices. We may believe this is about our ultimate faith in a Supreme Being, God, who directly inspired an accurate telling of events. The world was created in six days; it was flooded, destroyed, and repopulated by the sons of Noah. Rods turned into snakes, waters parted, and spiritual angels descended to earth using methods that varied from wings to flying chariots, moving stars, pillars of fire, talking clouds, and burning bushes. Every word of the Bible is literal and true.

Second, we can believe that it is all myth. The Bible is a study of man's imaginary efforts to control the world around him. It is more about man's self-aggrandizement than about any possibility of a 'real' God interacting with mankind on a personal, one-on-one relationship. It was a Jewish myth brought from Babylon and Sumer, and picked up by the Greeks and Hindus in their mythologies, having no basis in fact; thus, there was no creation. The world evolved in a sequence of random happenings explained through science.

There is nothing supernatural about the universe. There was no sudden appearance of Adam.

There were no floods; no Ark; no Ten Commandments; no Noah or Moses; no rods caste before Pharaoh or parting of the seas; no Elohim or immaculate conceptions; no ascensions on heavenly clouds; no angels and no miracles. There is no God.

The Universe and all its contents were not created in six days. As the great Lewis Black explains, "If anyone challenges you on that, hold up a fossil and say, "Fossil." Then throw it at them. That should keep them quiet."

Now that we have entered the Space Age, this adds another possibility. We are attempting to distinguish GOD from gods and aliens, to understand what the ancients experienced, and how they tried to convey those experiences to us. Hieroglyphs, petroglyphs, and ancient art suggest several interpretations about 'ascensions' and 'flying chariots,' genetic engineering, and DNA from the Elohim.

El is "the God of gods" and eloah are the children of God.. So let's be clear about what we are worshipping. Is it "aliens", or angels, or is there really a God beyond all these lesser deities?

John met angels and had this to say in *Revelation 22:8-9-*

> 'When I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, 'Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and all who keep the words of this book. Worship God.'

But who/what/where *is* God? Are my greatest spiritual moments with God delusional? Or based on weird looking aliens who once visited earth? I hope not. If angels were actually aliens who looked like us, then the Bible totally supports the ancient alien theory. But what of God? Is there room for both theories, for aliens and for God? For science and for religion? John clarified this for us in the *Revelations* quote above, and concluded the answer is yes.

We can perform the same miracles as the ancient priests[26]. We can replicate unlimited miraculous conceptions. We can fly. [27] We realize there is a common denominator, a similar thread of experiences running through most of our mythologies and religions. We hold our religious history up to Space Age technologies, and compare UFO's and aliens to Biblical ascensions. This is risky because it draws us into those misty fringe places called pseudo-science. Never the less, the largest creator-owner of UFO religious art is the Catholic Church. Why would they mix aliens in with their most sacred beliefs?

It is the Church's art and attitude toward UFO's and alien life, especially those in contact with Jesus, that convinces me there is credibility somewhere in this interpretation. At one time the Vatican Library was open to all, especially artists retained by the Church. These artists painted UFO's into religious art with Church approval. Why? Where in the Church library did they find these ideas, and why did the early Church support them, and not object to these depictions? Many were painted in the Middle Ages, at a time when the Church sanctioned witch-hunting and burning heretics at the stake. Why weren't these artistic depictions labelled satanic or heresy?

Monsignor Corrado Balducci (1923-1968) said-

> 'The Lord certainly did not limit His glory to this small Earth. On other planets other beings exist who may not have erred as we did.'

Msgr. Balducci is one of the best-known and most respected Italian theologians. He was a Roman priest and Curia, and served the Holy See as a diplomat.

He demonstrates the openness of the Roman Catholic Church regarding the UFO/ET reality from the point of view of a major world religion - with over billions of faithful, the RC Church is the largest religious community on Earth. Since the first Balducci-statement, the Dalai Lama, several Jewish rabbis in Israel and, in 2001, the Muslim authorities of Turkey followed with positive statements on this subject. UFOs are not only "no problem" for the

largest Christian church, but also acknowledged by other world religions.[28] If God exists at all, he exists for the entire Universe. The Ten Commandments, if really from God, also apply to the entire Universe that He created. He exists for humans and 'aliens', for Nephilim and Elohim and for the angel Gabriel too. God may soon be proven not by faith, but by Physics and Quantum Mechanics.

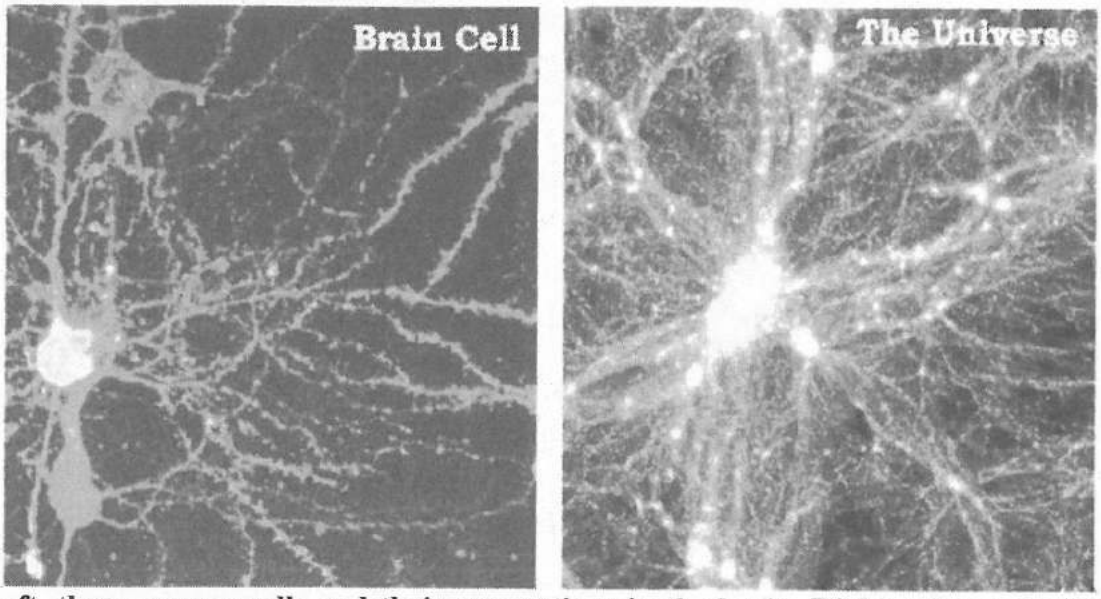
Whether our situation arose as the result of God or science, the end results are the same; you and me, however we got here.

> 'A Universe that contains the mechanism for parts of it to become conscious must also be conscious by association. We are the Universe. Wouldn't a conscious Universe want to answer the same questions that we want to answer? What am I? Where do I come from? What will happen to me in the future?' (Source: Quora.com/ Has the Universe Created us?)

FINDING GOD AMONG THE GODS
LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE

Carl Sagan promoted the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), where he served as a trustee. NASA pictures taken by the Hubble telescope[29] show the potential for a Universe teeming with life. The problem is simple....we mistook aliens for gods. Remove this misconception, and everything changes. Yet God can continue as a viable part of this Universe.

The universe may grow like a giant brain, according to a new computer simulation. Fundamental laws govern growth of systems large and small. Results in the journal Nature's Scientific Reports published Nov.16,2002, suggest that some undiscovered, fundamental laws govern the growth of systems large and small, from tree roots to the electrical firing between brain cells, and from growth of social networks to the expansion of galaxies. Identical branching patterns emerge. In other words, the Universe is thinking just like our brains are thinking. The Universe *is* a giant brain and we are just miniature replications. This is the chaos theory, but not destructive unpredictable chaos. This implies a random, but good chaos. The same laws are governing the formation of a rock, a coastline, the pattern in leaves, in the human heart, lungs, and brain, and in the design of the universe. The 'chaos' pattern IS the pattern of the Universe and all it contains, including you, me, aliens, and God.[30]



Left, three neuron cells and their connections in the brain. Right, a large cluster of galaxies and dark matter that form webs in the universe. Source; Mark Miller, Brandeis University, Virgo Consortium for Cosmological Supercomputer simulations. visualcomplexity.com.

**He created man after his own image. – Bible*
**Every form is in His image. – RigVeda*
**You are an aperture through which the Universe is exploring itself. - Alan Wilson Watts*

We know from the largest to the smallest of all that exists, that everything is just recycled stuff that has been around since the universe began 13.75 billion years ago. Water is over 13 billion years old, formed from hydrogen and oxygen-H2O- found in great abundance in stellar gases that formed shortly after the 'Big Bang'. The water in your body is *that* old, and no guessing where in the universe it has been, or what other life forms it had been a part of previously. How old is DNA (and its cradle, RNA) in the universe? When did blueprints appear that brought inanimate atoms together to become conscious? Is cognizance as old as water? Older? Younger?

ANGELS AND ALIENS

If God (higher intelligence) can exist as a natural part of the Universe, can we determine in what form we may expect to find him? Will he be in our carbon image or our spiritual-light form? Could God be silicon, or perhaps electrical, like a grand circuit board?

Among all the ancient peoples of the world, the Hebrews were first to write of a God outside of space and time, a transcendent all-powerful creator God. The Greco-Roman and Hindu sagas of wars and gods were exaggerated retellings of events written by Babylonians and Hebrews. Hindus have several

versions of creation, including life beginning as an egg, or as sound waves, or through destruction of other beings. Some Hindu schools do not regard the scriptural creation myths as a literal truth, and often the creation stories themselves do not go into specific detail, thus leaving open the possibility of incorporating at least some Hindu theories in support of evolution. Hinduism is not predominantly earth-centered, and puts more emphasis on other "planes of existence" – various material abodes and the spiritual realm itself. This is reflected through the concept of lila (divine pastime). These lilas take place in the spiritual world and are replicated at sacred locations on earth. There is no one simple account of creation in Hindu mythology. Instead there are diverse stories.

In Buddhism there are no creation stories. There are several variations of the heavens, all of which are part of samsara (illusionary reality). Those who accumulate good karma may be reborn in one of them. However, their stay in the heavens is not eternal—eventually they will use up their good karma and will undergo a different rebirth into another realm, as humans, animals or other beings. Because heaven is temporary and part of samsara, Buddhists focus more on escaping the cycle of rebirth and reaching enlightenment (Nirvana). Nirvana is not a heaven but a mental state. These are not creation stories, but stories about heaven and afterlives.

The Chinese, amongst all people ancient and recent, primitive and modern, are apparently unique in having nothing resembling creation myths in their earliest recorded history. There is an almost total absence of any coherent mythic narratives dating to the early periods of Chinese culture.

The Quran does not have one complete creation story. Instead it has roughly 149 passages scattered throughout the Quran explaining creation as Arabs understood it. They begin as passages copies from Biblical scripture, inserted without a pattern, then divert into purely Arab interpretations. One example has to do with mountains. The Bible describes how the earth was covered with water until the waters receded and land appeared from the sea, but the Quran declares the opposite, that the earth was leveled flat then mountains were set down on the earth from above. The mountains were placed on the earth to keep the land from sliding around. In another chapter, the Quran mentions that the sun sets in a muddy pool every evening. Shooting stars or meteorites were missiles or weapons used to scare evil jinns and bad genies away from earth. Heaven was the same as earth, only better, a place with gardens, food, fine houses, brocades and silks, flowing wine that did not make one drunk, perfect sex with perfect others who would not resist nor argue, whether they be male or female, old or very young.... no sweat or bad body odors, nothing to disturb one's peace and personal desires. A Muslim heaven is quite a different concept from Hebrews and Christians! The paradise of Islam is a sensual paradise, not a spiritual paradise. How can the Bible and Quran differ so widely if both were God-inspired or God-directed?

For whatever reasons, whether by plan or by chance, Hebrews started mankind on a different spiritual journey. They were first to conceptualize an omniscient God, the first to describe the soul as a form of eternal light.

The Bible begins, then ends with stories about contact with extra-terrestrial life. The Old Testament is full of encounters with angelic beings, and this changed everything for mankind. The creation stories of the Hebrew Bible are the result of knowledge gained from personal encounters.

The story of Jesus appears to be the history of personal contact on a sustained level. Dr. James Tabor is Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he is professor of Christian origins and ancient Judaism. He wrote-

> *Do Historians Exclude the Supernatural?* "Doing the work of an historian is not "hard" science in the purest sense of the term.... There is no doubt that historians often differ in their conclusions in important ways, and that "interpretation" of the data, how it is finally weighed and processed, is indeed a somewhat subjective process. When it comes to Jesus, as Albert Schweitzer pointed out long ago, historians all too often have "looked into the long well of history" and seen their own reflection staring back at them. In other words, when they come up with a so-called "historical Jesus" fashioned almost wholly by their own imaginations and biased desires."[31]

We are missing a lot of information and so we 'speculate' and make theories that we cannot yet prove. Like theories about Magdalene's importance, or Paul's interpretations of Christianity, the ancient alien theory is just that, another theory no better or worse than any other. And yet it seems almost blasphemous to seriously consider that Jesus may have been witness to these encounters in his lifetime too.

Thutmose III was the first who left us written accounts. Were these made up stories? Alexander the Great had no need for fiction when describing the 'flying shields' that he and his army witnessed. In 90 B.C. in Spoletium (65 Roman miles north of Rome, in Umbria) a globe of fire, of golden color, fell to the earth, gyrating. It then seemed to increase in size, rose from the earth, and ascended into the sky, where it obscured the disc of the sun, with its brilliance. It revolved towards the eastern quadrant of the sky. Then in 99 B.C., when Murius and Valerius were consuls in Tarquinia, there fell in different places a thing 'like a flaming torch' that came suddenly from the sky. Towards sunset, a round object like a globe, or round or circular shield was seen in the sky traveling from west to east.[32] By 99 BC Jesus may already have been conceived and born! Why would Jesus and his apostles 'make up' stories about angels and ascensions? I don't believe they did. I believe they told the truth.

The Old Testament begins with angels encountering women of earth. The whole concept or idea of angels ('sukallin'-Hebrew 'malakh', pl. 'malakhim')

first appeared in Babylonia among Semitic people,[33] begging the question, is this how they got the concept of being the "Chosen People' of God? There is a somewhat similar emphasis on lineages in India, followed through the males. Gautama Buddha came from the lineage (gotra-clan) of Gautama Maharishi.

There are cherubim, seraphim, archangels, guardian angels, fallen angels, angels of the Lord, angels of the seven churches, and above them all, the King of angels, who gets mention in 50 Bible verses. Angels can be divided into three hierarchies of nine orders (three in each). There are 43 angels in the Bible (roughly coinciding with 49 rishi lineages in Hinduism.)

Gabriel appears in the Old Testament (the Tanakh) to explain Daniel's visions (*Daniel 8:15–26, 9:21–27*). Then 600 years later, he appears to Zechariah and Mother Mary in *Luke*, in the New Testament. When we get to the New Testament, angels become an integral part of the entire story. The Catholic Encyclopedia states-

> 'Hitherto we have dwelt almost exclusively on the angels of the Old Testament, whose visits and messages have been by no means rare; but when we come to the New Testament their name appears on every page and the number of references to them equals those in the Old Dispensation.'[34]

No one feared these alien angels. They looked like us. The earliest human written records of 'alien' flights outside the Bible was written in 1750 BC, Laws of Hammurabi (The Hakatha or Babylonian Code)-

> 'The privilege of operating a flying machine is great. The knowledge of flight is among the most ancient of our inheritances, a gift from 'those from upon high'. We received it from them as a means of saving many lives.'

More was written in 214 BC in Rome, in 74 BC in Asia, and again in 70 BC in Jerusalem[35].The first time such an event was witnessed in the USA was March 1639. Late one night strange lights flew over the Charles River in Boston, Massachusetts for several hours. Governor John Winthrop made an entry in his journal regarding describing the characteristics of the lights.
This account was later published in The Journal of John Winthrop, 1630-1649 (John Harvard Library). Additional sightings were written about in 1644 and 1649.[36] Regardless how a person interprets this information, we cannot disregard the powerful influence these are having upon the human mind, spirit, and imagination.

> "But whatever the cost of breaking it, silence is not the historian's option." Simon Schama, *'History of the Jews'*

LIGHT: A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

Silicon intelligence may exist in the Universe (as in robots and computer-generated intelligence) but nothing indicates that Moses or Jesus encountered

silicon or artificial intelligence. They are adamant that their God is a God of light.

Scientists already predict that light-based intelligence may exist in the universe. Light-based intelligence would not be subjected to death, like silicon or carbon-based earth life. Life, or at least awareness and cognitive thinking as light would be the closest thing we can imagine to 'eternal life.'

1st Epistle of John, Ch. 1-

> 'This is the message we have received from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him, there is no darkness at all.'

Is intelligent light exclusive to God? A speck of intelligent light must exist in the structure of *every* living thing, behaving like *two cognitive entities* sharing one space. This would be the key to all of our thought processes, our memories, and our passions. This would explain our soul existing in a carbon framework. This is what makes inert components of dust and clay into animated, conscientious *living* entities.

Light may act just like the CPU in our computers. Our memories, thoughts and experiences are programmed into it. We already use our eyes and brains to think and compute at the speed of light.[37]

Does a flower, a tree, a dinosaur or a dog have a speck of light capable of being imbued with lasting memory, cognitive abilities, and a soul? [38] They probably do, and why not? Laws of creation and physics that apply for one life form must apply for all. The difference is in the programming, the *level* of intelligence necessary to realize that one *has* intelligence (self-awareness). Death for viral bacteria, a worm, a fish, a flea or an embryo does not have the same implications as death of a dolphin, a dog, or a man. Buddhists believe that even the lowest life forms share a place of respect with the highest. All life is sacred and nothing must be killed-which is a noble idea for mankind, but doesn't work in nature. The higher the intelligence of the species, the more cognitively aware it becomes. At our highest point of cognizance we finally perceive God, and God communicates his awareness of us back to us.

Everything in the world is made up of energy, even light, and our energy can be controlled by our thoughts and feelings. This kind of 'thought' energy can travel long distances faster than the speed of light and yet still follow the laws of the universe.

'Prayer' is like ESP, telepathic, high-speed inter-galactic communications between minds, between us and the vaster streams of light-consciousness: a means of rapid travel between two points in space.

GOD IS THE MIND OF THE UNIVERSE

The *Bible* tells us that Elohim, Nephilim[39] exist in great societies in the universe. We are all described as 'made in his image' but we realize that this could not mean the image of our bodies, our physical carbon forms that die. God cannot die like carbon life dies, or he would not be an imageless and

everlasting God. This must refer to the imageless within us, the spark of light, the soul of awareness and consciousness.

These two kinds of life forms, one of carbon and the other of light, exist one within the other.

Bernhard Haisch-

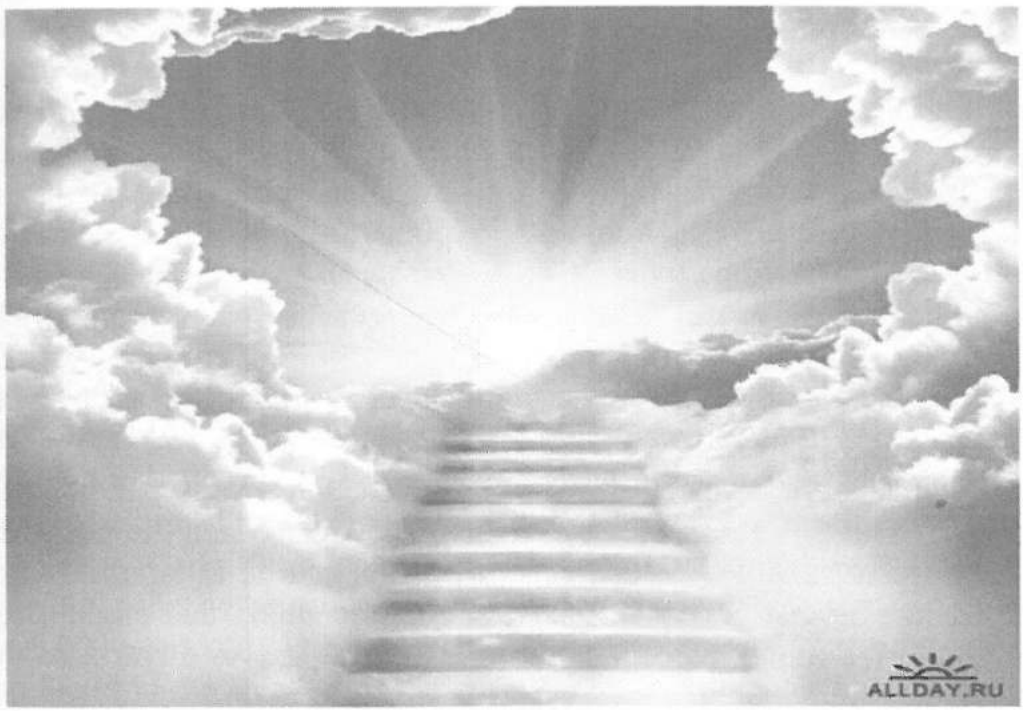
> 'For the Universe is not only more than we imagine, it is more than we can imagine.'[40]

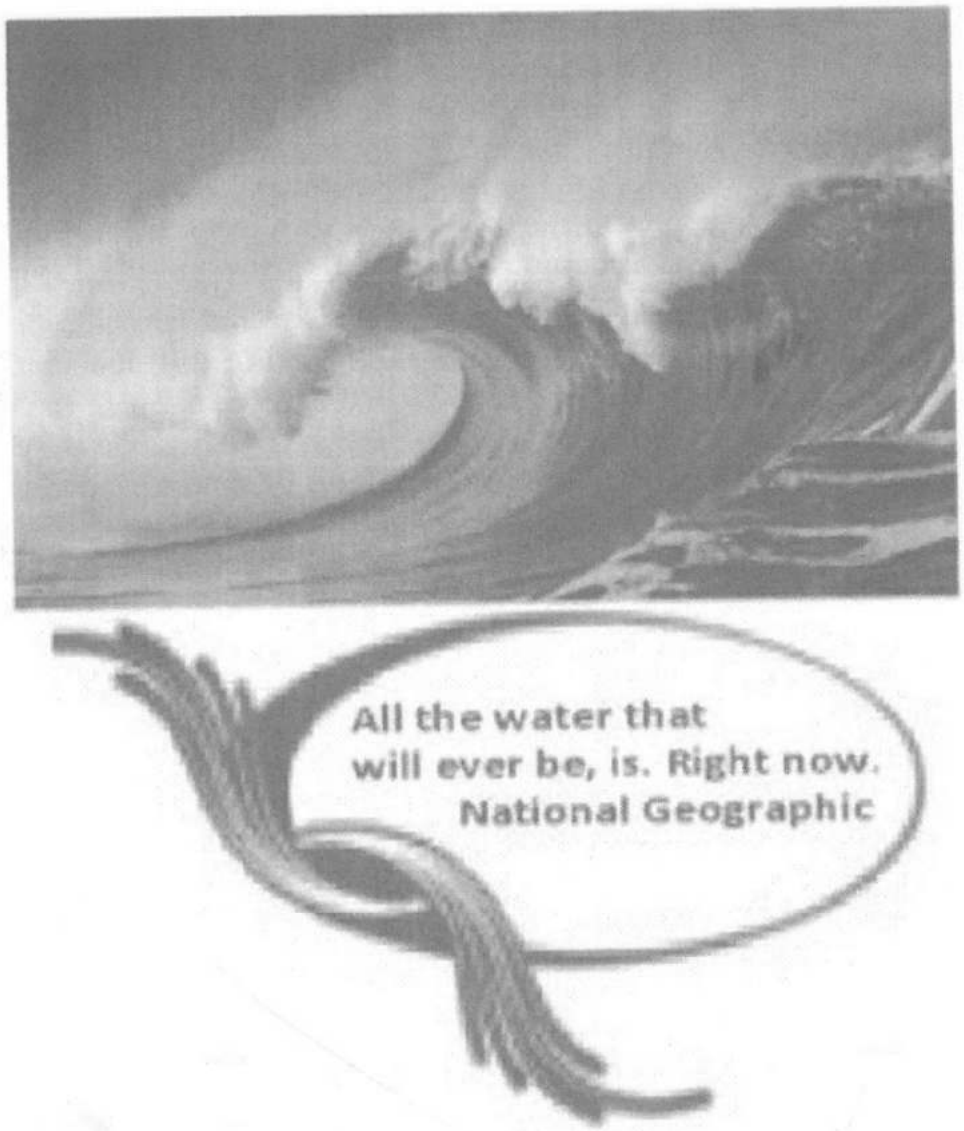
Bernhard Haisch[41] is an eminent astrophysicist who is also a member of an increasingly large group of prominent scientists trying to bridge the seemingly impossible divide between Creationism and Intelligent Design. Haisch thinks *Let There Be Light* is not just a randomly chosen phrase for the Creation. He believes that in the mysteries of light rest clues to the deepest mysteries of the universe.

Dr. Richard G. Petty-[42]

> 'We are all imbued with some splinter of God consciousness. We should live a life that allows the expression of this intelligence, because in that way we evolve, grow and achieve ultimate satisfaction and happiness. The brain is a filter and it is possible to develop the brain so that more of this consciousness is able to manifest. This squares well with the recent data on neuroplasticity and the impact of meditation on the structure and function of the brain. These ideas are familiar to mystics and contemplatives who have described the universe as the body of God.'

This is heaven, nirvana, the Axis mundi, the paradise promised in every religion.





DNA DISPERSION

You may wonder at first why Noah would be included in any discussion about Jesus and the Old Silk Road. However Noah, known as Manu the lawgiver, has an important place on the Old Silk Road. For me he is especially important because several graves still exist in good condition that might yield ancient DNA. We cannot be certain that one of these graves might hold the

real Noah, but gathering these kinds of DNA profiles can help us determine probabilities.

The Bible (Genesis 8:4) says that Noah's ark landed on the mountains of Ararat. This does not refer to any specific mountain or peak, but rather a mountain range within the region of Ararat. There are four places in this region claiming to have the grave of Noah. There are also several graves in India that allegedly hold the remains of Manu (associated with Noah, the Lawgiver). One of these is in the Himalayas. Interestingly, there is a legend that the Kashmir Valley was once flooded, forming a vast ancient lake because the rivers were blocked by ancient rock slides until King Solomon had his engineers break the dam at Baramulla. This resulted in extensive flooding of the valleys beyond.

In the Hindu version, the Aryan Saraswat Brahmans living on the banks of Saraswati River then migrated to the new land-the Kashmir Valley. They came to be known as 'Bhattas' in Kashmir. They are the Kashmiri Pandits or the Aryan Saraswat Brahmans of Kashmir-from the lineage of Yudhisthira, who parallels the life of King David. Only *that* bloodline had the right to rule Kashmir and be called king.

However there is also this to consider; the traveling Arab historian El Bironi in the 12th century wrote, "In the past, permission to enter Kashmir was given only to Jews." This strongly suggests that Hindus and Jews, Yudhisthira and King David were, perhaps, even the same man.

Noah had three sons, Japhet, Ham, and Shem. Shem/Sem is considered progenitor of an Afro-Asiatic group of people. He was ancestral great grandfather to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and Jesus. Arabs claim that Muhammad also had a Semitic lineage to Abraham and thus to Shem. The grave of Abraham is still intact to this day, and could yield DNA. We could have DNA from both Noah and Abraham. Muhammad's grave is also intact. We can determine ancestral links connecting all three men through their DNA. We can determine with accuracy the truth.

The Persian historical chronicles, Jami al-Tawarikh ("Compendium of Chronicles") Volume II, mentions that Yuz Asaf, (Yusuf Zyes -the Yusefzai, "Sons of Joseph" in Afghanistan) who is identified by many as Jesus, visited the grave of Shem and other of his ancestors, just as my grandmother and I visited graves of our ancestors. The journey from Jerusalem, through Syria and Turkey to Armenia is just 800 miles. The distance can be walked in about 4-5 weeks (faster on horseback, and there is no reason to presume that Jesus did not ride horses over these great distances- it was the most common method of travel for all men and women in his era.)

Zorats Qarer (also called Karahunj or Carahunge) is a large field of megaliths that some call the Armenian Stonehenge. It is estimated to be 6,000 to 8,000 years old. About 223 large stone tombs and 222 standing stones can be found in the area. 84 of the stones featured a circular hole, although only

about 50 of the stones survive intact. They have been of interest to Russian and Armenian archaeo-astronomers who have suggested that the standing stones could have been used for astronomical observation.
Weathered inscriptions on one of the stones refer to the tomb of Shem and his wife. The name of Shem is written down the right side of the stele and again, in smaller letters, down the lower part of the center. Other names of the men in Noah's family are found here too. It is unclear if this was intended as a family graveyard or a memorial-genealogy record because the word for 'grave' is not specifically associated with them, although numerous graves do exist here.



The grave of Shem at ZoratsQater. Jesus visited here to pay respects to his ancestor.

Geneticist Brian Sykes spoke about the seven daughters of Eve coming out of Africa and dispersing worldwide[43]. After nearly going extinct several times, humans lived isolated in small isolated groups. In his view, the Biblical flood could be allegory explaining cataclysmic changes on earth that drastically affected people who were living in these small social groups.[44]

Whether it occurred on the walk out of Africa or walking off the ark, we find this small number of survivors by tracking their genetic trails back in time. We are all identical down to 99.99% of our DNA. That is far *less* diversity than most other species on earth. The human race is roughly divided into three broad racial descriptions determined by geography: Africans, Eurasians, and East Asians, each representing adaptations to local diet and climate. We have applied a system known as DNA and Haplo groups to record these changes.

Distribution of Haplogroups goes approximately like this:
For Europeans and Americans of European descent, over 95% can be classed into nine main clans: H, I, J, K, T, U, V, W and X.
*** For Africans, the 14 main clans are L0a, L0d, L0f, L1b, L1c, L2a, L2c, L3b, L3d, L3e, L3f, L3h, L3i, L4, L5.
*** For East Asia, there are eleven: Z, D, A, N, Y, F, R, B, C, E, G, M.
*** For India and Pakistan, Central Asia or Eurasians, there are 3: M, R, U.
*** For South Asian, there are nine: M, N, X, R, J, H, T, U, F.
***For Oceana, there are five: N, M, P, B, Q.
***For Native Americas, there are five: A, B, C, D, X.
(Source: www.eupedia.com/europe/origins_haplogroups_europe.shtml)

The Viking DNA is predominated by the letter I, Polynesians by the letter B. From this we know that their great sea voyages were not connected by families or clans, and Polynesia was not settled by anyone related to Nordic Vikings. DNA of some Egyptian Pharaohs is more closely associated with north European men. If you were to guess Jesus' Haplogroup, what would your guess be?

MANU

After the flood sagas, the name Noah (meaning 'peaceful' or 'rest') was carried with people on their migrations and resettlements.

Manu was the name of the flood hero in India. He, like Noah, built an ark that saved eight people. 'Ma' is an ancient word for 'water.' Manu could mean 'Noah of the waters.' In the Hebrew Old Testament, the word water is a translation of mayim, with the syllable yim being the standard Hebrew plural ending, giving us 'waters'.

The 'ma' prefix could well be the original form of mar and mer, Spanish and French for sea, from the Latin mare, or 'marine' in English. In the previous chapter, we learned that the Merovingians were named for sea legends associated with their founder, Merovee/Merovich, which means 'son of Mero', the 'mer' being an eponymous reference to a location or person associated with water. The Roman general Aetius adopted the young Merovich and made him King of the Franks in the Low Countries and Northern Gaul. His existence was thus verified in other sources.



The Egyptian hieroglyph for 'water' was written as a wavy line. When the alphabet was invented, this symbol became the letter 'm,' representing mayim, the Semitic word for water.

In Phoenician writing of 1300-1000 B.C. it was called Mem, then called Mu in Greek and finally Em among the Romans. The Phoenician alphabet is the ancestor of most writing systems in use today.

In Norse mythology, Njord was the god of ships, living at Noatun, the harbor of ships. In this language, the syllable 'noa' is related to the Icelandic nor, meaning 'ship'. Could Noah originally have been from Iceland?

The original Sanskrit word for 'ship' is nau, which becomes 'navy' and 'nautical' in English.

Mannus was mentioned by the Roman historian Tacitus in his book *Germania*. According to Tacitus, Mannus is the son of Tuisto and the progenitor of the three Germanic tribes Ingaevones, Herminones and Istvaeones. This becomes Ing, Irmin, and Istaev (or Iscio). Some identify the sons as Freyr (aka Yngvi), Thor, and Odin (also known as Jormun) of the Icelandic Eddas.

The Istaev/Iscio dwelt around the Atlantic coast of modern day Netherlands, Belgium and northern France. The earliest Franks, the Viking Norsemen, were my direct ancestors too. This is verified through family written history and through DNA studies.

Mannus is also the name of the Lithuanian Noah. Another Sanskrit form, manusa is closely related to the Swedish manniska, both words represent a 'human being.' The same name may even be reflected in the Egyptian Menes (founder of the first dynasty of Egypt) and Minos (founder and first king of Crete). In Greek mythology Minos was the son of Zeus and ruler of the sea.

The English word 'man' is related to the Sanskrit manu. Gothic, the oldest known Germanic language used Manna and gaman-'fellow man'.

The name Anu appears in Sumerian as the god of the firmament. Rainbows were called 'the great bow of Anu,' which seems a clear reference to Noah (*Genesis 9:13*). In Egyptian mythology, Nu was the god of waters who sent an inundation to destroy mankind. Nu and his consort Nut were deities of the firmament and the rain. Nu was identified with the primeval watery mass of heaven, his name also meaning 'sky.'[45]

The circumstances surrounding Noah's birth bear striking similarities to the conception and birth of Jesus. Like Jesus, Noah's birth was filled with doubts about his legitimacy and origins. In *'The Akbar Nama of Abu-L-Fazl' –'The Book of Akbar'*[46], Noah was a product of the Nephilim. It states that Adam also had no earthly father or mother.

Lamech's wife, like Jesus' mother, is found innocent of adultery or misconduct. Lamech, like Joseph, accepts responsibility for the mother and child. On what basis, what proof, did they distinguish a child from an unfaithful wife from a child of the Nephilim? From the Interlinear Hebrew Bible (repeated here for emphasis)-

Genesis 6-

> 'The Nephilim (Navalin) were in the earth in those days, and afterwards, when the B'nai Elohim came in to the daughters of Adam, and the daughters had children by them. They were Powerful Ones, the heroes who existed in ancient times, the men of renown.'

Enoch, Noah, and Jesus were certainly heroes of old and men of renown.

NOAH'S BIRTH

The Akbar Nama of Abu-L-Fazl-

> 'And after some days, my son Methuselah arranged a wife for his son Lamech and she became pregnant and bore a son. And his body was white as snow and red as the blooming of a rose and the hair of his head and his long locks were white as wool, and his eyes beautiful…And his father Lamech was afraid of him, and came to his father Methuselah.
>
> And he said unto him: "I have begotten a strange son, diverse from and unlike man, and resembling the sons of God of heaven; and his nature is different and he is not like us, and his eyes are as the rays of the sun, and his countenance is glorious. And it seems to me that he is not sprung from me but from the angels.



I fear that in his days a wonder may be wrought on the earth. And now, my father, I am here to petition thee and implore thee that thou mayest go to Enoch, our father, and learn from him the truth…And now, my father [speaking to Enoch] hear me: unto Lamech my son there hath been born a son, the like of whom there is none, and his nature is not like man's nature, and the color of his body is whiter than snow and redder than the bloom of a rose, and the hair of his head is whiter than white wool, and his eyes are like the rays of the sun…

And behold I have come to thee that thou mayest make known to me the truth. And I, Enoch, answered and said unto him: "The Lord will do a new thing on earth, and this I have already seen… and make known to thee that in the generation of my father Jared some of the angels of heaven transgressed ...and married some of these women, and have begot children by them… this son who has been born unto you shall be left on the earth… And now make known to thy son Lamech that he who has been born is in truth his son, and call his name Noah (which means 'rest') for he shall be left to you to raise and care for…. And he will not be forsaken by the angels.'

There are three variations of the flood saga in India: the Satyavarman, the Vaivasvata and Nahusha (which is best known for its discussions about flights in vimanas- the flying cars that kings traveled in). The Puranas describes Manu as the son of the Sun God, Surya, a reference to his 'other-worldly' parentage. Matsaya means 'fish' story. *The Matsaya Purana (16th Purana)*-

> 'To Satyavarman, the sovereign over the whole earth, was born three sons. The eldest was Shem. (C'harma-Manu) then Sham (Ham-Sharma and third was Jayapet (Japhet -Jupiter).'

The Brahmins were greatly influenced by the Greeks and the Hebrews, and claimed to be descended from the sons of Japheth /Jayapeti/. Yayati/Jyapeti/. Japhet was well known across cultures as Dyauspitar (Jupiter) and as Dyus (Zeus). Vishnu or Lord Krishna, Shiva, and Buddha (through Isaac) are all from Japhet's lineage.

Most of the Roman gods and goddesses were a blend of several religious influences. Many were introduced via the Greek colonies of southern Italy. Many had their roots in old religions of the Etruscans, the Latin tribes. Often the old Etruscan or Latin name survived but after some time, the deity came to be regarded as a Greek god of similar nature. The Greek and Roman pantheon are very similar.

I Maccabees 12:21-

> 'It has been found in a writing concerning the Lacedaemonians (Greeks) and Jews (Judah), that they are kinsmen, and that they are descended from Abraham.'

The stories of just a few were spread worldwide. Jonah becomes Jason in Greek mythology and Oannes in late Babylonian epics: Samson becomes Hercules/Heracles. David becomes Achilles. The story of the Noahic Flood in Greek mythology becomes Deucalion and Pyrrha, who built a wooden "chest" to save them. Jesus was called Adonay, comparable with the Greek Adonis. We are not just comparing similarities of words, but of entire stories and events that parallel one another.

In the scriptures of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Manu/Noah is called Nuh. The surname Nuh-Nooh is still used in north India-Pakistan-Afghanistan, and Iran, where they believe their family name originated with Noah.

'Khwaja' derives from an aristocratic title meaning Lord or Master. It was also a title mostly used for Sufi saints of the Naqashbandi and Chishti Orders. All who trace their lineage back to King Nooh/Noah used this title, Khwaja. The House of Khwaja is considered the oldest nobility in the Persian world.'[47]

People take their relationship with Noah very personally. He is their ancestor, their personal grandfather, and they carry his name with pride. A city near Delhi, India is named Nuh after this family. Cizre, Turkey has an elaborate grave for Noah, as does Karak Nuh in Lebanon. Only archaeology can unravel the mystery of the multiple graves for Noah. DNA is the most valuable tool we have for these family founders.

ARKS ARE NOT BOATS

Noah's Ark is traditionally thought of as a boat, but an ark is not a boat. If his boat was called an ark, it would be because it had a different purpose from all

other boats, and the use of the word ark was to distinguish this from all other boats. The word ark comes from the Greek arkheia, which means 'public records.' From this we get the word archive: Ark of the Covenant, Ark of Testimonies and so forth. It refers to a place to protect important records. This is what distinguishes a common boat from an ark.

The 'Ark' of the Covenant was never intended to go afloat. It was built specifically to house the Rod of Moses and Laws of Moses, the tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments. It was built to serve as an archive to hold historical valuables.

The *Akbar-Nama* states that Noah had sacred tablets from God similar to those given to Moses. In Mesopotamian mythology, the Tablet of Destinies originally belonged to the god Enlil. Were these the same as the sacred tablets of Noah? Noah also had a rod of kingship. It was used to establish a new line of kings after the flood. Duplicates of each were always kept, in case the original got lost, stolen, or destroyed. He brought these together with the graves of Adam and Eve on the Ark, preserving them in order to rebury their remains later.

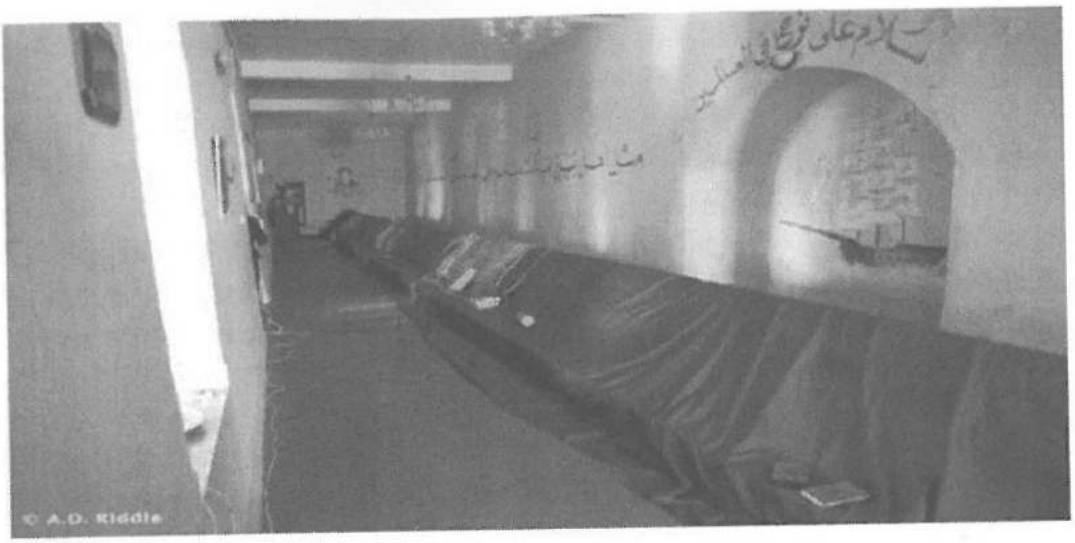
This explains why it was designated an 'ark' instead of 'boat.'

Human remains were usually moved in ossuaries (stone boxes, reliquaries, temporary wooden chests, or jars). It is not an unusual custom to transport the dead for reburial, or divide the bones of loved ones among families moving great distances. Noah did it. Joseph's family did it. Jesus may have hidden Mother Mary's bones under similar circumstances, as we shall see later. Chinese had a similar custom, dividing and keeping deceased ashes for generations.

The Patriarch Joseph lived to the age of 110, long enough to see his great-grandchildren born. Before he died, he made the children of Israel swear that when they left the land of Egypt they would take his bones with them. Upon his death, his body was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt (Genesis 50: 22-26). The children of Israel kept their promise to him. When they left Egypt, Moses took Joseph's bones with him (Exodus 13:19). The bones were buried at Sechem, in the parcel of ground that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor (Joshua 24:32). Families would not be separated by death or by distance.



The 3,000 year old barrow- tumulus grave in Malabar, southern India. These 'three stone' structures are found here and in Ireland, suggesting long-lost cultural link.



Karak- Nouh, Lebanon grave of Noah is over 200 feet long. This was gradually enclosed over the centuries. Mark Twain visited here and wrote in 'Innocents Abroad'- "Shem., son of Noah, was present at this burial and showed this place to his descendants, who transmitted the knowledge to their descendants and the lineal descendants who introduced themselves to us today. It was a pleasure to make the acquaintance of such a respectable family, and the next best thing to meeting Noah".

SARAH, HEBREWS AND HINDUS

Abraham and Sarah have a significant presence on the Silk Road. The story of their lives is echoed in several major stories of India. They lived circa 1900-2000 BCE[48], although scholars argue the precise dates (as they often do). The rise of Sumer occurred in the 4th millennium BCE. The Ancient Near East (Babylonia, Sumer, Elam, and the Persian plateau that eventually extended into Afghanistan and Punjab) is considered the cradle of civilization.

God commanded Abram to leave his home, a commandment that coincided with climate changes, seismic activity, and with the flooding of the Indus Valley rivers [Genesis 12:1-3]. Abram obeyed God and migrated to Canaan. God then changed Abram's name (exalted father) to Abraham[49] (father of the multitude-*Genesis 17:5*). The Egyptian practice of circumcision was adopted at this time. This also marks a major separation between Hebrews and Brahmins. Brahmins worshipped golden calves. Abram smashed them. Brahmins rejected circumcision. Abram made it a religious law.[50]

Sarah and Sarasvati share common attributes- piety, beauty, intelligence, gifts of speech and more. Since Vedic times, Goddess Sarasvati is regarded as the giver of wisdom. She is Vak Devi (goddess of speech-).The Sharda language of Kashmir is based on the name that Sarasvati was also known by, Sharada. She is Sakala kaladhishtatri (goddess bestowing all the art forms.)

Musicians pray to her before performances. Students pray to her before exams. She is the Hindu muse: the inspiration for all music, poetry, drama and science. Jains and Buddhists revere her.

Dawn of Religion in Paradise on Earth by Ranajit Pal-

> 'According to most scholars Abraham's started his westward journey in the 18th century BC. Both the Indus-Saraswati and Sumerian civilizations collapsed 1750 BC that may have triggered the westward migrations of the Kassites, the Hurrians, the Hittites and the Hyksos. This also seems to be the date of the fateful Bharata war that was a kind of an Armageddon (Magadha war). As the Seisten area was the ancient Dhamasthana, one has to search for Yudhisthira here, who was called Dharmaputra. Yudhisthira's name is usually rendered as 'one who remains unperturbed in battle' but this is not convincing, as he was not a distinguished warrior. A far better rendering appears to be Yadus, or Terah. Krishna, cousin of Yudhisthira, was a Yadu and Tir was the name of the god Nabu who was greatly revered by Nebuchadnezzar. After the Bharata war, Yudhisthira went westward to Mount Meru. It now appears that Abraham's trek may have been a continuation of Yudhisthira's journey.'



Hebrews are forbidden to worship the cow, but may eat its meat. Hindus are forbidden to eat its meat, but do worship the cow.



The Biblical Sarah and the Vedic Hindu Sarasvati- the same?

VEDIC NORWEGIANS-THE INDO-ARYANS

The history of relations between Bharat (Ophir/India) and the territory of the U.S.S.R. is ancient. Close ties between the people of Central Asia and India already existed as far back as the Harappan civilization. There are many references to customs of India in ancient Russian literature. Comparative linguistic studies of Vedic Sanskrit and the languages of the Slavs, Baltic and Iranian people shows their close relationship. Sarai in Turkish means 'yellow-blond'. Sarai is also the semitic root word for 'law'. The Hebrew name Sarah indicates a woman of high rank, sometimes translated as "princess."

According to the linguist Professor Oleg Trubachov, a whole series of names of ancient Black Sea regions have a great deal in common with India. The locality near Chersoneses, an archeological site in Crimean Ukraine, is 'Dandake' and there is an Indian 'Dandake' (aranya or region / a vast forest). The Scythian names Butonatos and Magadeva, and the Indian Bhutanatha and Mahadeva, are the same, etc. India is mentioned in a number of ecclesiastical Slavonic texts. In the first centuries of Christianity a stream of Greek and Bulgarian books literarily poured into Russia.

The Arctic Home in the Vedas is a book on the origin of Aryans by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, a mathematician turned astronomer, historian, journalist, philosopher and political leader of India circa 1880 to 1920. It propounded the theory that the North Pole was the original home of Aryans during pre-glacial period. They had to leave during the ice deluge around 8000 B.C. and migrated to parts of Europe and Asia. Recent mapping of

blood groups support this theory. The book was written at the end of 1898 and published in March 1903 in Pune.

Thor Heyerdahl (1914-2002) was the Norwegian ethnographer, explorer-author who took a long sea journey on the raft 'KonTiki'. During excavation of sites associated with Odin/Wodin in Azerbaijan, he was less than 300 miles away from the previously mentioned graves for Noah and his family.

Hyerdahl became convinced that the Norwegians were of the same people as the Tocharian mummies.[51] Their range extended throughout the Caucasus and north to the Himalayas, India, and Kashmir. Modern DNA tests on the Tocharian-Tarim Basin mummies confirm his theories. The maternal lineages were predominantly East Eurasian haplogroup C with smaller numbers of H and K, while the paternal lines were all West Eurasian R1a1a. The geographic location of where this admixing took place is unknown, although south Siberia is likely.[52]

The Mahabharata describes a dynastic struggle between two groups of cousins of an Indo-Aryan kingdom called Kuru, which may also be a reference to people from the Kura River Valley in the Caucasus, a stunningly beautiful region. The Kauravas and Pandavas fought over the throne of Hastinapura (slightly north of Delhi on the route to Kashmir) and this resulted in the Kurukshetra War. Various dates (6000 BCE – 500 BCE) are given. The entire war lasted just 18 days. Thus these wars could have raged at the same time that the Biblical King David (1040–970 BCE) waged wars. Some researchers suggest King David [Duad] was most probably the Egyptian pharaoh called Psusennes (Pa-djuat-kha-en-nuit).

King David had six sons, one named Amnon. He was murdered by his brother Absalom for raping his half-sister Tamar (*2 Samuel 13*). Aziz Kashmiri mentioned in his book, *Christ in Kashmir*, a place in Kashmir (although the boundaries have been changed) called Sheikh Chugani- location of a grave for Amnon, identified as the same son of King David. I am unsure the location, but it must be somewhere along the Chenab River [Moon-Chan/-River-aab] between the Himalayas and the Punjab. It's a famous river, well known to the ancients.

Aziz Kashmiri also mentioned a grave for Tanookh (Tanukh-Tanush), a grandson (or son?) of Jesus[53]. In nearby Kashgar (now in China) is a grave for Bibi Injeel, which translates as "the lady from the Bible". 'Injeel' means Bible. Her identity has never been explored, but her grave apparently still exists at the time of this writing, although it is under imminent threat from rebuilding projects there.

Abraham and Sarah do not have graves in India. It may have been the place of their births, but not their deaths. Sarah is not mentioned in the Bible until she is 65 years old, and she was described as exceedingly beautiful even at that age. According to Genesis 17:15, Sarah's name had been Sarai before the change.

Sarah is the only woman who the Bible mentions speaking with God directly. All the other women received their revelations through angels. She was originally called 'Sarai' but changing the spelling slightly indicated an elevation in her status. She became the leader, the priestess of her house and of her tribe, and a great prophetess, the same characteristics of the goddess Sarasvati in India.

Abraham and Sarah were buried together in the Cave of Machpelah, also known as the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, Israel. This is the world's most ancient Jewish site and the second holiest place for all Jewish people. Altogether, there are three Biblical couples- six people- buried here; Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Leah. Recovering DNA from each would be an incredible validation of Biblical family history.

The burial of Sarah is the first account of a burial in the Bible (Genesis 23:8-17). This is also the first commercial transaction mentioned, and certainly the most indisputable property deed in the world.

The building over the tomb is truly amazing in its dimensions, complexity and antiquity. Huge walls built by Herod the Great 2,000 years ago surround it. The interior is a combination of medieval architecture, Arabesque décor from later centuries, and synagogues founded after the reestablishment of the Jewish community here following the 1967 Six Day War.



Cave of Machpelah.

In one corner of the largest hall, with its house-like tomb markers for Isaac and Rebecca, a cupola stands over a small opening into the actual Cave of Machpelah.. Another, smaller room contains the tombs of Abraham and Sarah, and across an open courtyard are those of Jacob and Leah. Because of their sheltered and protected locations, all these graves should yield DNA. Our greatest gift to honor them would be to determine the truth, to preserve their memory and their real family identity through their DNA studies. These

ancients were all about the truth. Such tests would be an honor on their memories.

RACE-PHYSICAL APPEARANCES AND BLOOD GROUPS MORE SURPRISES

What is a 'race'? The term 'race' – as Nancy Stepan notes in her 1982 book, *The Idea of Race in Science, Great Britain 1800-1960* – varied widely in its usage, even in science, from the 18th century through the 20th; the term referred "at one time or another" to "cultural, religious, national, linguistic, ethnic and geographical groups of human beings" — everything from "Celts" to "Spanish Americans" to "Hottentots" to "Europeans".

Today, the study of 'race' is a study of both geography and Anthropology, and the earliest establishment of trade and travel routes such as the Old Silk Road. This includes the origin and evolution of Homo sapiens, the organization of human social and cultural relations, human physical traits, human behavior, the variations among different groups of humans, how the evolutionary past of Homo sapiens has influenced its social organization and culture, and so forth. Blood testing and DNA testing are among the tools used in these studies.

The male lineage- the mummies of the Egyptian Pharaohs and the Tocharian mummies (also identified as the Yeuzi-Kushan-Visha-Vijaya, and the Moon clan) share DNA- Haplogroup R1a, and physical features of blond, brown, and red hair and beards, and bright blue eyes[54]. Look at a Tocharian mummy and an Armana Pharaonic mummy and you see exactly the same features. In addition, Tutankhamen and several of his family members have AB or A2 Negative blood. This is the rarest blood group among humans. AB Negative was recovered from the Shroud of Turin and from the Sudarium, the cloth that covered the face of Jesus after the crucifixion.



Mummy of Queen Tye.



Tocharian Mummy.

THE HYPERBOREAN ORIGIN OF THE INDO-EUROPEAN CULTURE

by J.G. Bennett

Another theory worth consideration is about the Hyperboreans. The ancient Greeks regarded Celts and Gauls as Hyperboreans. There is a hypothesis for the origin of the Indo-European language and culture system. It determines that the modern world is a triple interaction between three cultures: Indo-European, Turanian and Syro-Egyptian. These are associated with inflective languages, Savior-God beliefs, agglutinative languages, Spirit-God beliefs, triliteral languages (using or consisting of three letters.-of Semitic roots) and Creator-God beliefs respectively.

Tilak's Arctic Home theory[55] that the earliest Vedic hymns were written in the circumpolar regions (far northern, near the North Pole) is developed into an account of the origin of the Indo-European linguistic-culture system. This 'Hyperborean Hypothesis' is subjected to systematic analysis and the tentative conclusion is reached that the Hyperborean hypothesis may best account for the known facts[56].

Hyperborea was an ancient continent that stretched in the south to India and Tibet. Thus, Tocharians could also be defined as Hyperboreans. Some try to associate with the lost Atlantis (a land mass lost to global warming). In Greek maps from the time of Alexander the Great, Hyperborea is a peninsula or island located beyond France. Apparently Hyperborea was a combined notion of present day Britain, Norway and Sweden. Its cultural-religious center was Mount Meru (Sumeru). It has been called Svarga or Blue Svarga in Slavonic legends and Jambudvipa in ancient Indian and Buddhist texts. The word Jambudvipa literally refers to 'the land of Jambu trees' where Jambu is the name of the species (also called Jambul or Indian Blackberry, however it is not in the blackberry family and more closely resembles olives) and dvipa means 'island' or 'continent'. Its capitol was Amaravati (abode of the deathless).

A major shrine connected with the Hyperboreans was the oracle of Apollo at Delphi. When an army of Gauls tried to seize the temple in 279 B.C strange apparitions appeared on the battlefield, routing the invading army. Hyperboreans also appear in the founding of the Olympic Games. The Daktylos or son of Zeus established the festival in honor of Zeus. When he decided to adorn the grounds with holy trees, he made a pilgrimage to Hyperborea to obtain sacred wild olives for the shrine.

SEXUAL SELECTION— BECOMING INDO-EUROPEANS RAPIDLY

By now it becomes apparent that Jesus and the Biblical patriarchs may be defined Jewish by their religion, but this tells us little else about them. Being

Semitic refers to a group of people using similar languages. They could be of diverse religious, racial, and cultural backgrounds.

Rachael Schultz tells us that, although the Bible portrays a patriarchal social structure, it has a gender-neutral ideology. The women in the Bible are socially subordinate but not essentially inferior. They have strong, independent personalities, and they often guide the course of events.

Sarah was a priestess even before she went with Abraham to Canaan. By many accounts, Sarah and Abraham were royalty even before they entered Egypt, and before God changed her name.

In one legend about the journey to Egypt, Abraham hid Sarah in a chest. At the frontier, the chest passed through the hands of officials who insisted on examining its contents to determine the amount of duty payable. When it was opened and they saw her for the first time, they were stunned by her beauty. Every one of the officials wished to secure possession of her. She was brought before Pharaoh.

When Pharaoh saw her, he took possession of her. Smitten with her extraordinary beauty and intelligence, he lavished her with many presents and marks of distinction (as told in the 'Sefer ha-Yashar' or 'Book of the Upright' Midrash). As a token of his love for Sarai, the king deeded his entire property to her, and gave her the land of Goshen as her hereditary possession. For this reason, the Israelites subsequently lived in that land. He gave her his own daughter Hagar as her personal slave. [Genesis 12:10-15, 18-19].

What was so outstanding about Sarah's appearance? Was Sarah a Tocharian., or a Mittani with platinum blonde, or bright red hair? Did she have blue eyes, or gold? The range of eye colors found among people in the Himalayas is very broad. They vary from light blue to navy blue, violet, brown, light gold, and the rarest eye color, green. What made Sarah stand out so much that a pharaoh, who could have the young, fairest, most beautiful women, would want her? Was it her physical appearance, or her gift of intellect or her abilities as a priestess, or the many languages that she spoke?

Thor Heyerdahl gave us something from Viking history that sheds light on these questions. It relates to the rapid spread of a unique new genetic adaptation that changed the physical appearance of some humans, and it spread rapidly and out of proportion to normal dispersing of new traits.

Heyerdahl found records describing how Viking villages were under constant attack and threats. They were raided solely to capture women and children who had pale hair and unusual eye colors, supporting the modern theory of sexual selection. [57] There is no other way to account for the uncharacteristically rapid spread of these features except to say they were deliberately sought out above other traits. We all left Africa with the common gene for dark skin, hair, and eyes. The further north man wandered the more rapid the changes occurred, due to diet, climate and natural selection.





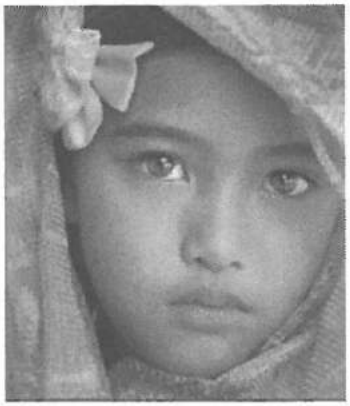












New features were quick adaptations to cold, lack of sun and vitamin D during glaciation. Natural blond hair is rare in adulthood, with some reports that only about 2% of the world's population is naturally blond.

At some point long after leaving Africa, then changing and adapting to colder environments, males from the southern Russian Steppes began moving southward. This provided the most significant genetic input into what later became the high castes of India, the Indo-Aryans and Indo-Europeans. [58]

For DNA-archaeogenetics verification, a 2001 examination of male Y-DNA by Indian and American scientists indicated that higher castes of India are genetically closer to West Eurasians than are individuals from lower castes, whose genetic profiles are more similar to other Asians and Africans. There were two key migration routes in to India, one coming up from the south, through South East Asia, the other coming down from the north, through Russia and Scandinavia. These routes were determined by the rise of the Himalayas. Travel is only possible at the far northern or far southern ends of the mountain chain, but not across them. This has only become possible since modern jet flight.

ZOROASTRIANS AND HEBREWS

Putting discussions about race and genetics aside, we return to religious differences, and how these differences also reflect a geographic influence and how far-flung little groups of humans found one another and affected cultural-religious interactions and exchanges. On the surface, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Christianity are very distinct religions. In fact, the opposite is true. They share more similarities than differences

A.V. Williams Jackson, Zoroastrian Studies: (with thanks to zarathushtra.com) in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces'*-

> *'Persian* belief was reorganized by the prophet Zarathustra (who some believe was Ham, the son of Noah) according to a strict dualism of good and evil principles, light and dark, angels and devils. This crisis profoundly affected not only the Persians, but also Hebrew beliefs, and thereby (centuries later) Christianity.'

The Hero with a Thousand Faces (first published in 1949) is a non-fiction book of comparative mythology by Joseph Campbell. In this publication, Campbell discusses his theory of the journey of the archetypal hero found in all world mythologies. Since publication of *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, Campbell's theory has been consciously applied by a wide variety of modern researchers, writers, and artists. (The best known is perhaps George Lucas, who has acknowledged a debt to Campbell regarding the stories of the Star Wars films). The themes expressed in our earliest religions are with us to this day.'

R.C. Zaehner, *the Dawn & Twilight of Zoroastrians-*

***P.*20-**

'Meanwhile in her encounters with the Medes and Persians, Israel had found a kindred monotheistic creed in the religion of Prophet Zarathustra, and one of her own Prophets, Isaiah, did not hesitate to salute Cyrus, her liberator, as the Lord's anointed. From this religion, too, she learnt teachings concerning the afterlife altogether more congenial to her soul than had been the gloomy prospect offered her by her own tradition, teachings to which she had been a stranger before.'

P. 51-52-

'An almost exact parallel to this solution of evil is to be found in the Manual of Discipline, perhaps the most interesting document of the Dead Sea sect of Qumran.. That Zoroastrianism was deeply influenced by Hebrews during and after the Babylonian captivity can scarcely be questioned, and the extraordinary likeness between the Dead Sea text and the Gothic conception of the nature and origin of evil, as we understand it, would seem to point to direct borrowing on both sides.'

P. 57-

'Zarathustra's doctrine of rewards and punishment, of an eternity of bliss and an eternity of woe allotted to good and evil men in another life beyond the grave is so strikingly similar to Christian teaching that we cannot fail to ask whether here at least there is not a direct influence at work. The answer is surely `Yes', for the similarities are so great and the historical context is so neatly apposite that it would be carrying skepticism altogether too far to refuse to draw the obvious conclusion.'

P. 58-

'Thus, from the moment the Jews first made contact with the Iranians their beliefs resembled the typical Zoroastrian doctrine of an individual afterlife in which rewards are to be enjoyed and punishments endured. This Zoroastrian hope gained ever-surer ground during the inter-testamentary period, and by the time of Christ it was upheld by the Pharisees, whose very name some scholars have interpreted as meaning `Persian', that is, the sect most open to Persian influence.'

Paul William Roberts, *In Search of the Birth of Jesus - The Real Journey of the Magi-*

> 'Without Zarathustra there would be no Christ. He was the bridge, and the Romans burnt it.'

John R. Hinnells, *Persian Mythology-*

> 'It is thought by many that `Zoroastrianism' was a source of influence for both Eastern and Western beliefs - Hinduism and Buddhism in the East, Judaism and Christianity in the West.'

VIKINGS IN INDIA

Nila was the name of a Kashmiri king who was the leader of the Manus. This king corresponds with the Babylonian 'Enlil'. Nila, like the word naga[59], is usually associated with water spirits or with kings associated with water. Explorer David Hatcher Childress writes-

> 'One of the most ancient races of Asia is the Nagas, a seafaring race of people who traded in their 'Serpent Boats' similar to the Dragon ships of the Vikings.'

The word 'Viking' refers to the occupation of slipping up little streams and creeks, called 'viks' to plunder unsuspecting and unarmed villages or to establish trade with them. Climate and population pressures caused the tribes to leave Scandinavia centuries before the birth of Christ. Scandinavian Vikings became the Salian Franks who settled Toxandria in modern Belgium, Netherlands, French Lower Lorrain and Normandy.

Viking ships were uniquely designed to have great speed with oars, and navigate just as well inland in shallow waters as on open seas. Not only had Vikings excelled at sea travel, but they also established settlements and trading posts inland in many European and Mediterranean countries. India is a peninsula surrounded by water.



The Vikings quickly reached the shores of India, traveling from the Black Sea and the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean along a route also used by Ethiopians, Romans and Phoenicians. The Mediterranean was connected to the Red Sea via a canal from the Nile River that was built at least 3,000 years before the Suez Canal, according to inscriptions on the Karnack Temple. The Romans had repeated contact with Vikings, some good, some not so memorable. They became the Normans (Norsemen/North men) of French Normandy, and eventually were a significant part of the Franks, Visigoths, Celts, Saxons, and Scythian bloodlines of European monarchies. Druids were the earliest known priests and lawgivers of the Vikings, Celts, and Saxons.



Vikings who remained in Europe gave up Druid law [Brehon Law, primarily Irish in origin] and Roman law [The Law of the Twelve Tables] to become Christians, changing the course of European and world history by following Salic Law and Constantine Laws.

The harshness of weather in the north made sustained farming impossible. They were compelled to keep moving by whatever means available, usually by ship, but also by on, camel, horse, donkey cart, or dragging sleds behind while trudging through snow-covered mountain passé. They arrived at the top of India, the Himalayas, where we can see the striking red and blond hair and blue eyes of their mummies, preserved in the frozen mountain passes.

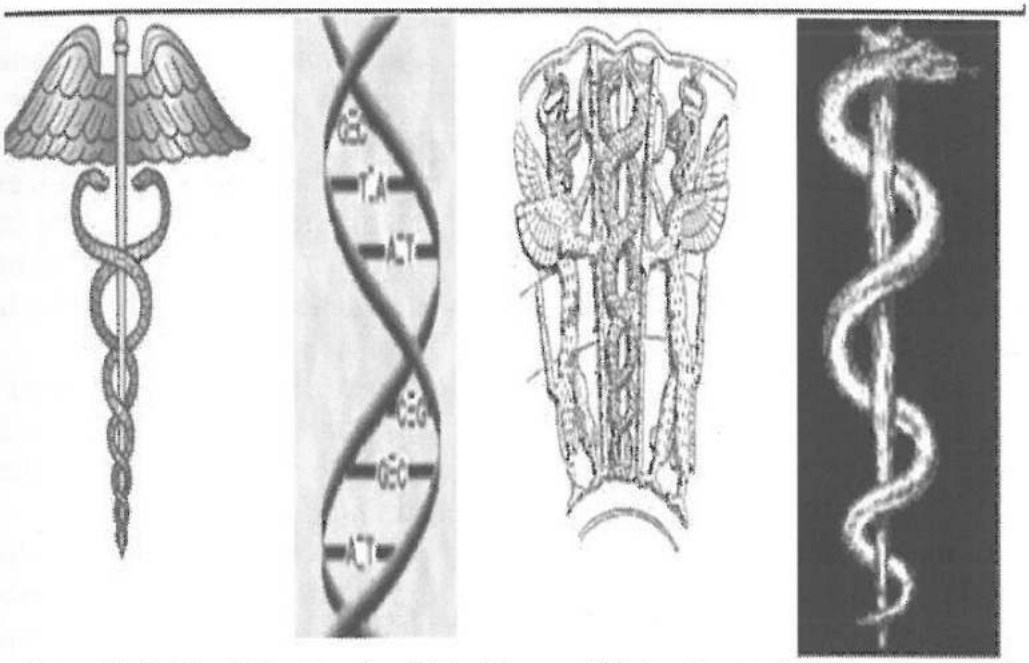
Celtic-Nordic links are found in graves from the Tarim Basin to southern India. Nordic-Hindu links have been noted by historians for years. DNA and blood typing confirms these migration routes. Swords formed from a specific smelting process used only by the Vikings, Laps Lazuli from Afghanistan, small-carved Buddhist idols from Nepal, silk from China, sturdy and intricate weaves from Scotland and Ireland have all been found in Viking and Tocharian graves, attesting to their great travels. Through trial and error they defined and established the Old Silk Routes still in use today. Not only were they great travelers, they also left a permanent influence upon all cultures they encountered, and made valuable contributions with their skills, especially in metallurgy and their adherence to tribal laws. This is important to us today because when they ruled France as the Merovingians, they established these ancient laws in ways that still influence legal decisions today.

The word nag in Egyptian hieroglyphs means 'to drink'- water. Naga [60] is also the name of a Neolithic[61] king of Kashmir who had a snake-like emblem on his scepter, suggesting another connection with Vikings, Druids, and early Greco-Hebrews. Nagas were associated with springs and water and later with snake worship. The serpent is one of the oldest and most widespread of mythological symbols. The Asclepian emblem has been associated with medical and health care since the 5th century BC when Asclepius became accepted by the Greeks as the god of healing. The nagas most likely began as Vikings, and their association with water symbols endured wherever they settled.

Some Hindu gods have remarkable similarity with Slavic deities, even down to their names. Sanskrit and Slavic words carry remarkable elements of similarities. The Slavic god Veles (god of shepherds, and a great serpent) bears a resemblance to the Vedic Vala, the Hindu Naga (serpent) mentioned in the Rig Veda over twenty times.

From Val comes Valhalla, the dwelling place of the gods in Norse mythology, ruled over by Odin. This becomes Shambhalla in Vedic literature. The Buddhist Shambhalla is Shangri La, an adaptation of the earlier Hindu myth of Kalki of Shambhalla, found in the Mahabharata and the Puranas. As with the messianic prophecies of many traditions (i.e. the Biblical Book of Revelations) there are diverse beliefs as to when, how, where and why the Kalki Avatar will appear. The popular image of the Avatar is that of a rider on a white horse, much like one of the four horsemen of the apocalypse.

Kundalini literally means 'a coiled form' in Sanskrit, and resembles depictions of the Biblical snake mounted on a pole. The rod and snake have been used to represent the spinal cord and the charkas. The spine is called Meru-danda, the rod of Mount Meru.



Numbers 21:8-'And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make thee a fiery serpent and set it upon a pole.'

It is believed that Mount Meru is where Shiva resides and is the place of dhatu (to know-knowing-learning). Kundalini denotes a power reservoir of psychic energy. In the Vedas, Kundalini is addressed as a goddess. She is Vak, the deity of speech (associated with Sarasvati-Sarah the poet). In Egypt, Messi (messiah) is the name of a serpent designated the 'Sacred Word' (Logos, meaning spiritual or gifted speech).[62] As the Hieroglyphic 'Tet' sign, the serpent also means speech, language, 'to declare'. This symbol is almost identical with the Caduceus of Mercury of the Romans, the Healing Staff of Ningi-Shita of the Sumerians, and the 'Staff of Asclepius' used by the Greeks, and still used today as the symbol for medicine. The symbol for The Tree of

Life in the Bible is a serpent wrapped around a pole or branch and bears a striking resemblance to the DNA double helix.

The Histories of Herodotus mentions the Sakyas. The word Sakya is derived from the name Isaac (European Saxons were considered Isaac's sons) and is directly linked with Gautama Buddha through his family name-Shakya, Sakyamuni or Shakimuni It is immediately apparent that, if these Sakyas are descendants of Isaac, then Gautama Buddha had a Hebrew bloodline. Celtic Gods are called duos (Shining ones). Gods of Vedas are called divas (shining ones, or Bealtaine/ Belenos/bitus to the Celts and Romans). The cosmologies of Druids-Celts and of the Vedas are almost identical in many aspects, suggesting either a common origin, or extended contact between cultures.

BIBLICAL, GREEK, PERSIAN, HINDU MYTHOLOGY

Maccabees I, 12:21—

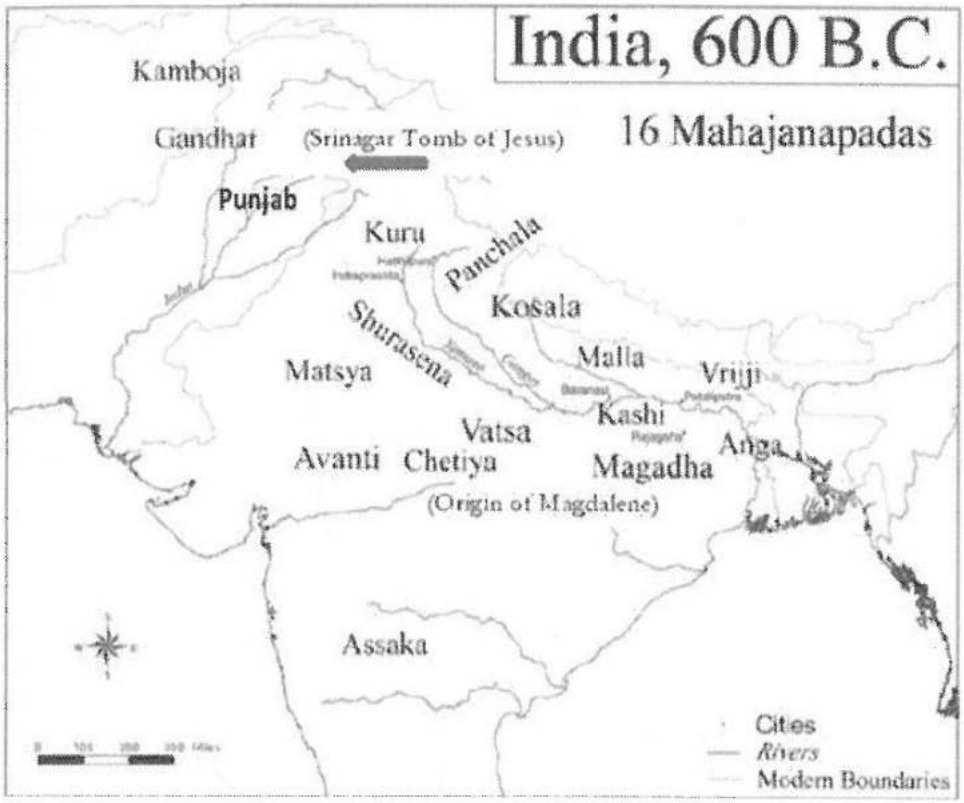
> 'It has been found in a writing concerning the Lacedaemonians (Greeks) and Jews (Judah), that they are kinsmen, and that they are descended from Abraham.'

Israelites colonized Greece in early times, and the Greek religions suggest a Hebrew origin, mentioned in the Apocrypha of the Bible. Scholars have identified a pattern that appears repeatedly—the story of the universal hero. Joseph Campbell[63] has shown that these stories generally end with the hero gaining new knowledge or abilities.

The best known Greek God-hero was Hercules (the Latinized form of the Greek 'Heracles') whose most distinguishing characteristic was immense physical strength. In legend, for a brief time he held the world on his shoulders. In the Bible, he is the Israelite hero Samson (*Judges, Ch. 13-16).*
The stories of the Mahabharata have many parallels with Greek mythology, with the exception that the Mahabharata presents some impossible timelines.

Because many bloody battles, sacrifices and threats of hellfire and brimstone were carried out in the name of the gods, especially in the Zend Avesta, the Bible, the Mahabharata, and the Quran, God has conflicting images, contradictory commandments, and an all-around bad rap, a reputation that taints his, and mankind's credibility to this day. For all the credit we give to God as the inspiration for mankind, in the end, mankind has been the interpreter of God, and the author of those communications who may not always have fathomed the intentions correctly.

The name 'India' does not appear in the Bible. Since Herodotus (5th century BC), the word denotes the region beyond the Indus River in Pakistan. It may be the Biblical land of Ophir [64] where Solomon established trade routes. It is also called Bharat. [65] The word India may have evolved from the Sanskrit word 'Sindhu' for the Indus River, from 'sindhu' to Hindu-stan (stan-place of). In ancient times, India consisted of smaller kingdoms like Kalinga, Magadha, Gandahar and so on. But most of these kingdoms followed the Aryan culture and Vedic rituals, religion, laws and customs. Some scholars believe that India included a much broader area, extending through the entire South East Asia, from the Himalayas to Afghanistan, Iran, and even Greece. The contributions of Indo-Greeks on the world have been the most significant.



WERE HINDUS HEBREWS?

The earliest Hebrew Scriptures have been found on pottery shards written in the 10th Century BC during the reign of King David.[66] These contain lines of prayer similar in concept to the Vedic mantras and slokas[67] (prayers).

10th Century-

Rig Vedas (1500BC-1000BC)

David, king of the ancient Israelites (1006 BC–965 BC)

Solomon, king of the ancient Israelites (965 BC–925 BC)

Zoroaster (approximate from 1000BC to 600 BC)

Very little time or distance separated them. Contact and exchanges existed. During the lifetime of Christ, Flavius Josephus recognized these connections. In *'History of the Jews'*, [68] he quoted the Greek philosopher Aristotle-

> 'These Jews are the Indian philosophers.
> They are named by the Indians 'Calani'.'

Martin Haug (1863) in *The Sacred Language, Writings, and Religions of the Parsis* [69] wrote-

> 'The Magi (Persians) . . . called their religion Kesh-i-Ibrahim. They traced their religious books to Abraham, who was believed to have brought them from Heaven.'

Edward Pococke [70] *India in Greece-*

> 'Rome's great, deified heroes were the chiefs of Castwar and Balik-Castor (author's note: Castor/Casper was also the name of one of the magi who visited Jesus at his birth), and Polluk, the former son of Leda and brother of Pollox: thus the Kashmiris, and the people of Balk, sprang from Leda-or Ladakh (adjoins Tibet). Behold now the simple fact: The Cabeiri is Cuvera (Kubera), the Hindu god of wealth and the regent of the north, in simple language, the Khyber. Its region is wealthy with rubies; gold is found in its rivers, and it was the ruling northern power in those days. There is yet another important view in which the Khaiberi are to be considered. They are the Kebrew, or Hebrews. The tribe of Yudah (Judah) is in fact the Yadu (Yadevas). Hence, it is that among the Greek writers of antiquity such a stress is always laid on the piety of the Hyperboreans, the people of Khyber, are Hebrews. The Persians claim Ibrahim/Abraham for their founder. The identity of Abraham and Sara with Brahma and Sarasvati was also pointed out by the Jesuit missionaries.'[71]

KING DAVID AND YUDHISTHIRA SIMILARITIES

Kashmir could only be ruled by Jews. Jewish rulers had to be descendants of King David. However, the Rajatarangini noted that Kashmir rulers had to be descended from Yudhisthira. Yudhisthira and King David must have been the same man. The words Yud-IUD (Celtic) Yahud (Farsi) Jehuda (Hebrew) refer to a Jew. The word Jew also has several interpretations. Israel is surname of Jacob bestowed on him by God. Hence the term B'ne-Israel, children of Israel for the people of Israel. The 12 Israeli tribes are named after the sons of Jacob, one of them being Jehudah. The word Israel comes from a verb stem SRH, to fight, struggle. The second part from 'eL = god, so it is ISRa+'eL, not IS+RA+EL. God tested Jacob by letting him struggle with an angel. In the passage occurs also the 2nd sing masc. perfect "SaRITaH" which according to normal conjugation patterns suggests a stem -SRH. King David was a warrior. Yudhisthira means 'steady in war.' It may be a combination of the two words, Yud (of Jacob) and Shtira (SRH, to fight or struggle.)

The 'lost' court of Kings David and Solomon - these famous kings cannot be found in Israel. Some researchers suggest King David [Duad] was the Egyptian pharaoh called Psusennes 2nd (Pa-djuat-kha-en-nuit). Evidence suggests these Biblical kings *were* associated with India *and* Egypt, possibly as the Hyksos kings. [72] It is possible that Hebrews came into Egypt during the Hyksos period or that some Hyksos were the ancestors of some Hebrews. The Hyksos introduced the horse and chariot, the compound bow, improved battle axes, and advanced fortification techniques into Egypt. They are also identified through a Canaanite-style temple, Palestinian-type burials, including horse burials, Palestinian types of pottery, and quantities of their superior weapons. Their chief deity was the Egyptian storm and desert god, Seth, whom they identified with an Asiatic storm god (comparable with Indira of India, Horus of the Greeks, and Thor of Scandinavia.) Hyksos ruled most of Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt for a period of about 150 years during the era of Solomon and David.

There are 449 Indo-European-Indo-Aryan languages that evolved and spread through trade between cultures. There are several theories regarding how one language spread. Among these are the Kurgan hypothesis and the Anatolian hypothesis. As the Proto-Indo-European languages broke up and spread, its sound system diverged as well, changing according to various sound laws evidenced in the daughter-languages.

The Greek use Iesous for the name Jesus. Arabic-speaking Muslims refer to Jesus as Isa, while Arabic-speaking Christians refer to Jesus as Yasu, which is the same as Yeshua or Joshua. Jesus' name is used in these two forms in the Qur'an and in Arabic versions of the Bible. Isa is used by several Christian groups in Muslim countries. A 14th-century Persian translation of Matthew, one of the earliest surviving Persian manuscripts of the scripture, uses Isa. Later translations in other languages also follow suit.[73]

In the Hindu religion and Sanskrit, the term Isa is a common name attributed to the Hindu God Shiva. The full term associated with "Isha" is Ishvara (also Yeshua or Joshua). The meaning of this word in Hinduism is "auspicious one". The Hindu religious text the Isha Upanishad (or Ishavasya Upanishad) is the oldest of the Upanishads, written at the end of the First century. The name of the text derives from Isa, 'by the Lord (Isha)'. Isa is the most ancient of all the Upanishads. Thus all Upanishads came into existence only after the ministry of Apostle Thomas in India. Thomas, the disciple of Jesus, came to India in A.D. 52 and had a twenty year old ministry all through India. The Upanishads reflect a tremendous influence of Jesus and Christian concepts, and mark the time of significant religious changes in India thought and interpretations of God.

The Isa Upanishad is a clear indication of the wide existence of Christianity throughout India soon after the ministry of Thomas.[74]

Sanskrit is an Indo-European language. Hebrew is *not* an Indo-European language. It is part of another language group that has been called Hamito-Semitic but is now usually called Afro-Asiatic. The languages of this group include Arabic, Aramaic (the language of Jesus), Phoenician, Acadian (the language in which ancient cuneiform texts were written), ancient Egyptian, Coptic, Somali, and many more. However, as expected among people who have historically moved vast distances over millennia, there are numerous common, shared words in Hebrew that have become identical with Indo-European words. Otherwise trade, commerce, and intermarriages would have been impossible.

The oldest preserved parts of the Mahabharata text are thought to be not much older than around 400 BCE, though the origins of the epic probably fall between the 8th and 9th centuries BCE, closely aligned with the reign of King David (1010 – 1002 BC (Judah) | 1002 – 970 BC (Israel.)

One of the strongest points for a common Brahmin-Jewish origin is the fact that in both communities there have been endogamous priests from the earliest times of their recorded history. To marry only within one's clan or family is followed by both Brahman and Jewish priests.

The sister of Lavaca in India becomes the daughter of Laban in the Biblical account. Sarasvati is the daughter of Brahma in the Indian tradition. She was created to give voice to his creations-just as the Biblical Sarah excelled in eloquent speech and many languages. Her Biblical counterpart, Sarai, has been described as the sister of Abraham. 'Sivas' is the root-word of the Sanskrit word vasa (sister), which becomes Bes (daughter) in Hebrew. Sarah had another name - Isiah ("Jessica") meaning "Seer," because she was a Prophetess and had the ability to see into the future. Another reason for the name "Seer" was that people used to gaze at her beauty. The Babylonian Talmud, Muglia 14a, lists 48 male prophets and 7 Biblical women who were prophetesses: Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Abigail, Hilda, Esther.



The six-pointed star in India represents Heaven, the abode of Lord Krishna. The six-points represent all twelve patriarchs (Viv or Man) or tribes. The two "Triangles" are actually the letters "Dalit" and "Yue", the two letters assigned to Judah. The two triangles form a diamond, which is the gem assigned to Judah. These letters are also found in the assigned zodiac of Leo.[75]

Hebrews and Brahmins consider themselves the "Chosen People of God". The Hebrew "Kingdom of

Priests" (*Exodus* 19: 6) corresponds with the Brahmin "Community of Priests." The similarities between Brahma, Sarasvati, Manu, Bali to the Biblical Abraham, Sarai, Noah and Pelé have been noted often by historians. Shukla states that the Jewish Laban and Brahman Lavana are a match. The names Mary and Miriam have several ancient origins and definitions. Mari may be derived from a Sanskrit word, matri, meaning 'mother'. Mari signifying a high place and is worshipped as a mother goddess and as wisdom, much the same as Mother Mary's significance to later Christians. If Abraham and Sarah were in fact Indo-Europeans as this evidence suggests, then Muhammad was indeed correct stating that he, an Arab, could not have been descended from Abraham. Muhammad would most likely be Haplo Group J, the common marker of Bedouins and Berbers of the Arab Peninsula. Egyptians are predominantly Haplo Group E.

The subject of race is raised whenever DNA Haplo groups are researched. Do these Haplo groups represent races, and would that be significant? Yes. DNA has been a wonderful tool for mapping the movements and evolution of mankind. We can understand where and why man adapted as he spread across the earth. Forty thousand years ago most of these diversities did not yet exist for humans. The changes reflected in our DNA, in our eyes and hair color and build, are good news for us as a species. It proves we can adapt quickly.

There are favorite traveler's hubs worldwide where people congregate to find out news about the journey ahead. Some are taking the east to west route, while others go the west to east route. Just like the Roman outposts of 2,000 years ago, everyone meets at central locations to gather news and travel tips for the journey ahead. After the Vietnam War in the 60's, Asian destinations became very popular for backpackers traveling the world on five dollars a day.

Bali, Indonesia is a great traveler's hub. That's why so many foreigners were killed there by the sidewalk bombings in 2002 and 2005- In the 2005 attack, 88 Australians, 27 Britons, 10 Hindus, 7 Americans, several Japanese and others were killed. There were hundreds seriously injured. KhaoSan Road in Bangkok has the same atmosphere. That's where I was during the Bali bombings in 2005, on Khao San Road watching people burst into tears and screams because they had just left friends in Bali. It was heart wrenching to see. I lived in Thailand for several years and enjoyed many evenings with street food vendors-eating my pad thai (spicy noodle soup) that cost under a dollar, watching people go by-and I would play a little mental game of guessing their geographic origins. It's a game many of us engage in called 'Guess that tribe or nation.' Our racial differences can be pinned down, sometimes even to a small region of the world.

Some Ethiopians have very distinctive features I call the 'Mark of Solomon.' It starts at the bridge of the nose, which slants at a distinctive high angle. I can spot these Ethiopians anywhere in the world. Solomon thought

his Ethiopian son Menelik was the most handsome, most intelligent, and most capable to rule Ethiopia, which his descendants did very successfully for three thousand years. The legends of the Lost Ark of the Covenant followed Menelik to Ethiopia. Had Solomon trusted Menelik to carry the Ark away, to hide and protect it? This keeps us interested in Ethiopians to this day, especially Ethiopians said to be guarding the Ark hidden in the vicinity of Axum.

Genghis Khan spread his genes across a vast swath of the world, from Mongolia through India and Persia and right into the homes of modern Bagdad and Jerusalem. To this day, over a thousand years later, many of his descendants are born with a well-documented clinical condition called 'Mongolian Blue Spot'- a birthmark on the buttocks that was often mistaken for a hard slap from an abusive parent. This hereditary feature is harder to spot. If they don't lower their pants, then I don't see their birthmark, which is fine for me...I'll take their word for it.

The Aryans and Dravidians of India, the Maori, Micronesians, Melanesians and Aboriginal Australians of the Pacific Ocean, the Indians of Central and South America, and Maya of Mexico have unique characteristics. Some Native Americans bear strong resemblance to Sherpa guides who live high in the Himalayas. They both share ancient roots with the tribes that crossed the Bering Straits into Alaska and North America. Red hair and fair skin are always indicative of northern groups such as the Celts and Vikings. China's five distinct races were united under one flag, making it difficult, at least for me, to separate ethnic Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, and Asians in general. They are different culturally, but not by much physically. Asians were great sea-going people, often the first to inhabit new lands. Asians are the most populace people on earth. 'European' is another difficult description that is applied to a broad range of people who share vastly different cultures and geographies.

One of the most stunning human beings I ever saw was half Swedish and half Japanese. The unique physical markers that help identify a person's ancestry are rapidly disappearing in today's world. We seem eager to throw ourselves in to the great racial blender and come out all in one flavor.

We hope to discover and settle new planets in the universe. Quick adaptations are the key to our survival on earth and in the heavens. Armed with ancient and modern DNA blueprints we are ready to take our arsenal of adaptations to space and the universe beyond.

DISTRIBUTION OF BLOOD TYPES

Animals and bacteria have cell surface antigens referred to as a blood type. Different blood types have been recognized since 1900. There are bovine, equine, simian, canine, feline, rhesus, and chimpanzee types. Birds and fish also have blood types. A total of 32 human blood group systems are now

recognized. DNA was first discovered in 1869 by Johann Friedrich Miescher, 30 years before the discovery of blood groups.

DNA may not always be recoverable from ancient sources due to degradation and contamination, but blood *types* can often be determined from the same samples. Only in the last century have scientists and anthropologists begun using both DNA *and* blood groups as biological markers. These studies have allowed a greater understanding of the movements and groupings of early peoples as they adapted to changing climates, mutating germs, and local food supplies. Recent analyses using sophisticated genetic measures have produced the most accurate picture to date of human evolution and migrations. These same studies are valuable when looking for the bloodline of Jesus, or for your own family.

There are over 300 blood types falling into four major groups. The four groups of human blood are A, B, AB, and O. A and B represent proteins. O indicates a lack of those proteins. These variations may be the result of early diets in different regions.

Just like humans, animals also have identifiable blood groups that veterinarians refer to. Some are similar to man, although not interchangeable with man. Human blood groups were once the same as chimps and gorillas.

Chimpanzees have the same blood types as ours, types A and minimal O, but never B. Gorillas have the blood types B and minimal O, but never A. There is no blood type AB in either of the apes, and O is very rare. The place where territories of the chimps and gorillas meet is also the region of the oldest human skulls found in Africa.

Man has A and B, AB, as well as type O[76].

The blood group characteristics of the various Jewish populations have long been of interest to anthropologists, noticing a higher than average rates of blood group B. The Ashkenazim of Eastern Europe and the Sephardim of the Middle East and Africa, the two major sects, share high rates of group B blood and bear no discernible differences. Babylonian Jews differ considerably from the present-day Arab population of Iraq, in that they have a high frequency overall of group A, and an even higher frequency of group B blood.[77]

~**Blood group A** is associated with high frequencies in Europe, especially in Scandinavia and Central Europe.

~**Biotype A2** is an Arctic biotype from ancient ancestors in Scandinavia. The blood from Pharaoh Tutankhamen and his family is a rare type A2 Negative, the Nordic type blood.

~**Blood group B** has its highest frequency in Northern India and neighboring Central Asia, and its incidence diminishes towards the west and the east, falling to single digit percentages in Spain.

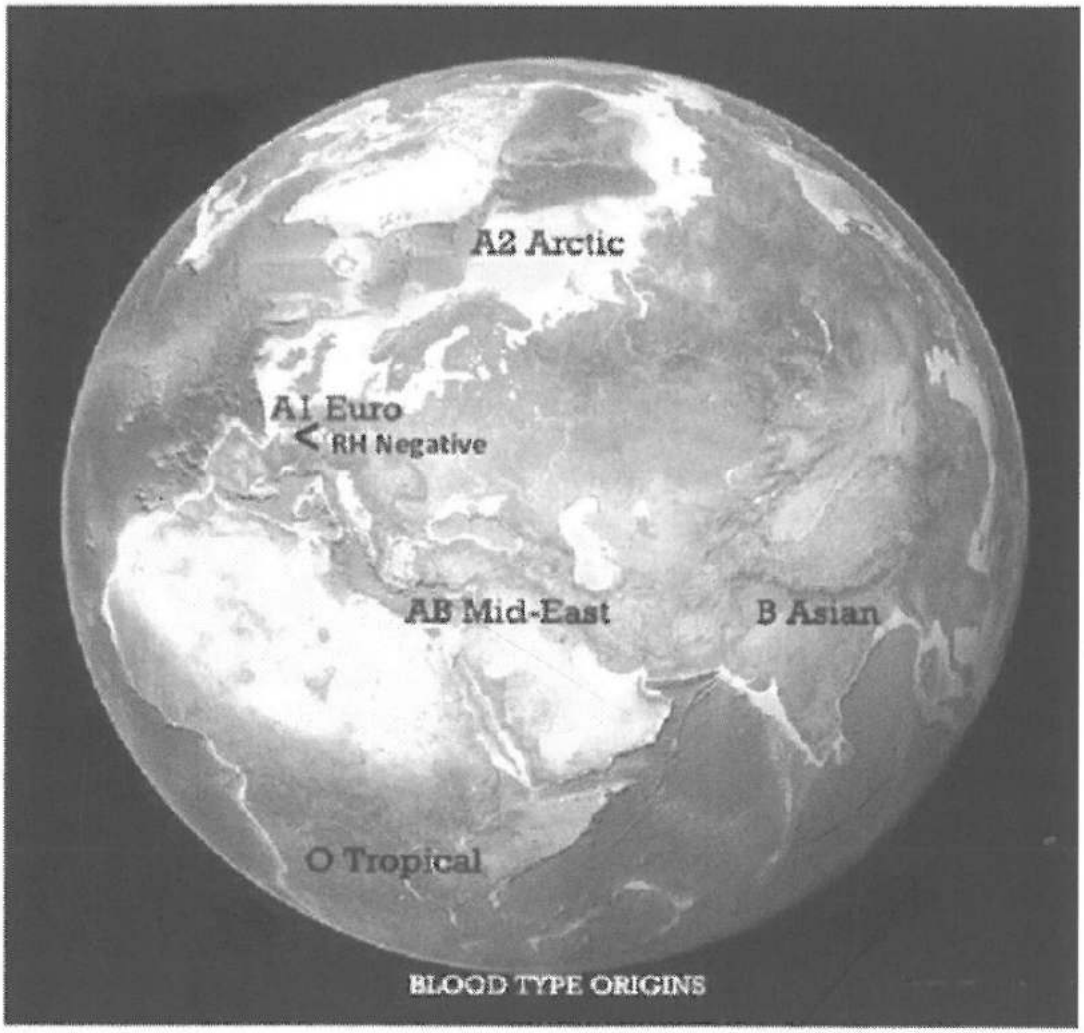
B accounts for about ten percent of the world's population.

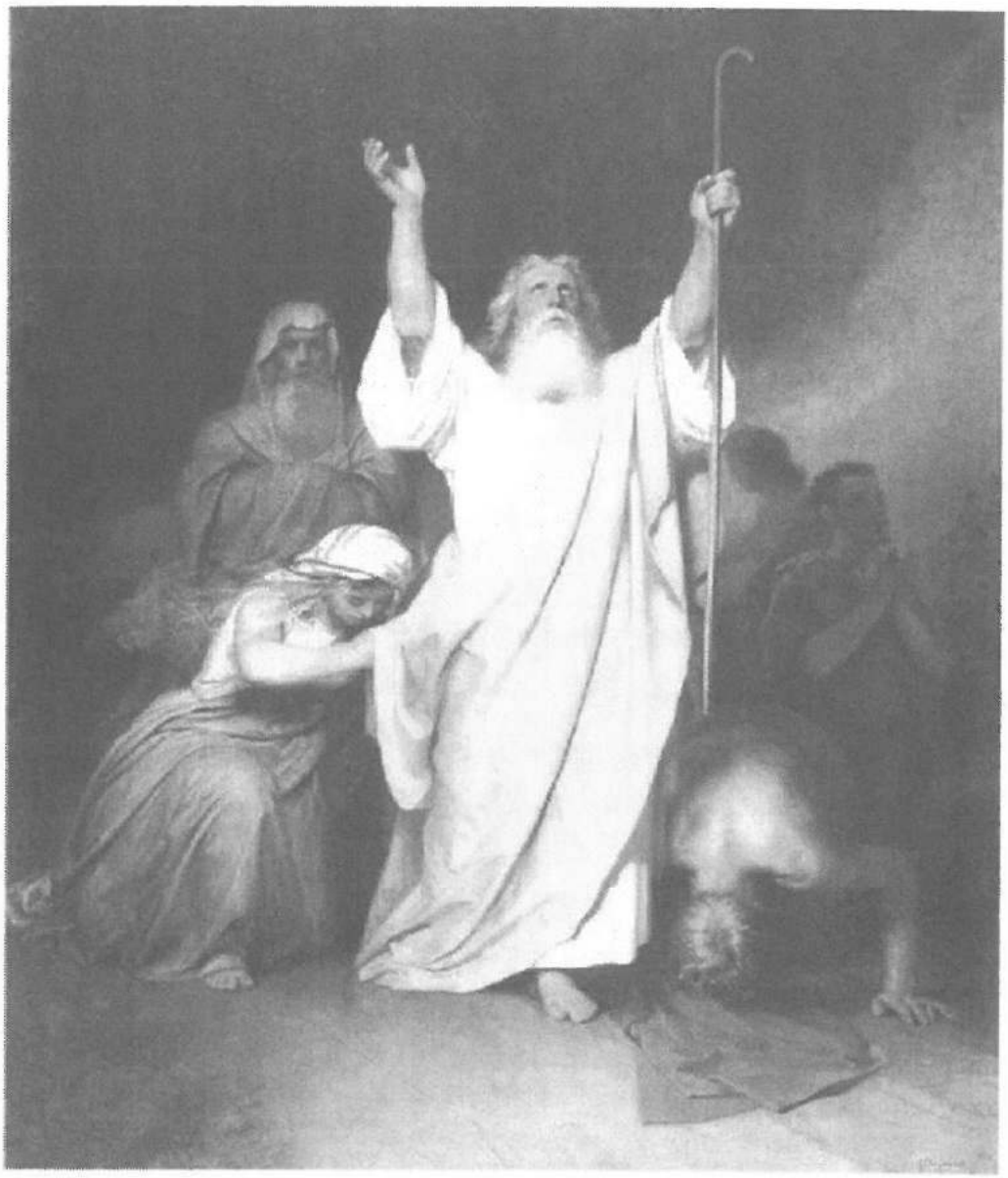
~Biotype: AB is a Mid-East biotype. This type has inherited Middle-Eastern genes for blood type A1B or A2B from ancient ancestors in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran. Blood group AB is found in less than five percent of the population. It is certainly the most recent blood group.

~Biotype Rh-Negative is a Basque biotype. This type inherited a Basque gene for blood type Rh-negative from ancient ancestors in the Pyrenees Mountains of France and Spain.[78] Basques possess the lowest frequency of blood group B---originally having no group B at all---and the highest frequencies of blood group O in Europe.

More than fifty percent of the Basque population is Rh negative, as opposed to sixteen percent for the rest of Europe. The blood samples from the Shroud of Turin and the face cloth of Jesus, the Sudarium, both match. They are both AB. The Rh factor could not be determined.

When more blood types and DNA are gathered, we can start building a profile of Biblical prophets and well beyond the Bible. This will solve many geographical, racial, historical and theological puzzles.





'Prayer of Moses after Israelites Cross the Black Sea' by Ivan N. Kramskoi, Belarus Museum. 'India is the cradle of the human race, birthplace of human speech, mother of history, grandmother of legend, great grandmother of tradition. The most valuable historical treasures of mankind are stored up in India.' Mark Twain

Inside Roza Bal were relics and documents associated with Jesus/ Yuz Asaph. Few survive today because they have been defaced, destroyed, hidden, lost, stolen, exchanged, or sold off to visitors. Among the remaining relics are-

1. Ceremonial sword, mistakenly described as a cross, mounted in a base made of stone or mortar

2. Footprints of crucifixion wounds, carved in stone, similar to Shroud of Turin wounds- could only have been made by someone who had seen the wounds and their distinctive asymmetry first hand

3. Rod of Moses (or Asa-i-Sharif-Rod of Jesus) and an ancient document found inside the sarcophagus, written in Sharda, known as the Rishi Nama, the history or 'pedigree' of the Rod preserved by the rishis. It traces the Rod from Jesse and King David to Yuz Asaf. Original is in Srinagar Archives.

4. Wooden cup, candelabrum, and other ritual objects, now removed

5. Stone of the Sepulcher, an arched stone alter for holding candles and incense, purportedly there since the tomb was built

6. Ancient sarcophagus built extra-long (8'2") to accommodate the Rod. Sarcophagus has been removed. It was ornately carved, and had depictions of a cross.

7. Door with six panels of wood carvings depicting scenes from the life of Yuz Asaf (removed)

8. Inscriptions at Temple of Solomon (destroyed-known only by surviving old photos)

9. Seal of the Justice of Islam Mullah Fazh, 1194 A.H. (1766 AD) In Srinagar Archives

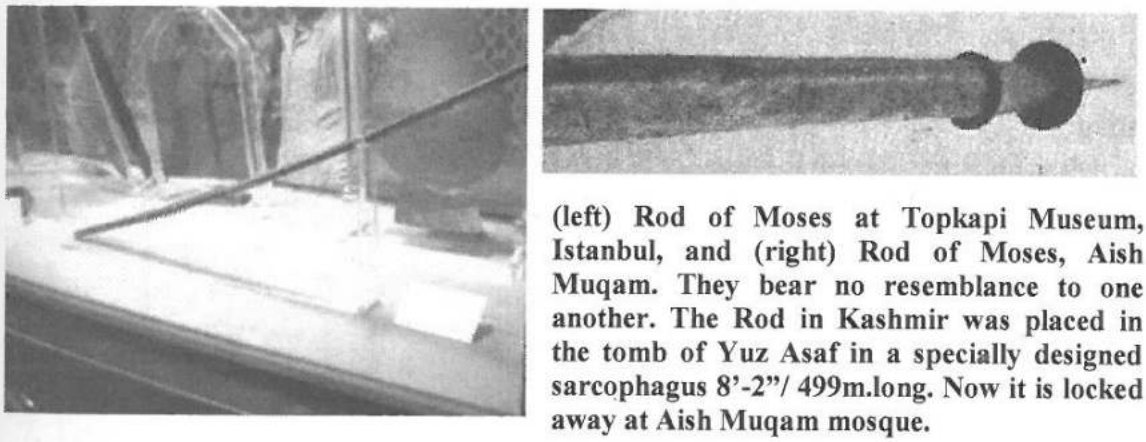
10. Grave of Yuz Asaph and stone marker are under the main building (some claim this has been filled in with rubble and is now inaccessible-this is not verified)

RELICS

There were ancient documents in the sarcophagus that were sold off to visitors by poor caretakers trying to get a few extra rupees. Carvings in the basement were plastered over in recent times to prevent anyone from seeing them. [79] An elaborate ancient wooden 'screen' can be seen around the casket in older photos. Devotees would leave bits of fabric attached to the screen, as seen in old photos. During one of the tomb's 'remodeling' phases, the screen was cut in to pieces, some sold off to tourists, but most thrown away. Photos are no longer allowed. Old photos appear in several books including '*Christ in Kashmir*' by Aziz Kashmiri and '*The Fifth Gospel*' by Fida Hassnain and Dan Levi.

THE ROD OF MOSES

A great amount of historical attention is given to the Rods of Moses and Aaron, and stories about the Rods are legendary. A Rod turned into a snake in the presence of the Pharaoh. A Rod parted the seas so Moses' people could cross the waters. A Rod made a gushing spring of water appear in the desert when Moses tapped a rock. Aaron also had a Rod. Both Rods were imbued with magical powers. The Bible tells how, along with Moses' Rod, Aaron's Rod was endowed with miraculous power during the Plagues of Egypt that preceded the Exodus. Rabbinical scholars debate if Moses and Aaron had two rods, or one that was shared between them. There is a Rod of Moses kept at the Topkapi Palace, Istanbul, Turkey. Like the Rod at Roza Bal, this rod also has an identifying document that can be seen at the Hagia Sophia[80] in Istanbul. However, the similarity ends there. The Rod at the Topkapi Museum is a long, uneven stick protected in a glass case. The Rod in Kashmir is a long, heavy, substantially crafted affair that is hidden from public view and only taken out once a year. The Rod in Turkey is thought by most to be a fake, a relic planted after the 12-13th centuries. No scientific testing has been done on either rod.



(left) Rod of Moses at Topkapi Museum, Istanbul, and (right) Rod of Moses, Aish Muqam. They bear no resemblance to one another. The Rod in Kashmir was placed in the tomb of Yuz Asaf in a specially designed sarcophagus 8'-2"/ 499m.long. Now it is locked away at Aish Muqam mosque.

The Rod in Kashmir is also identified as the Rod of Jesse in a document that was originally placed with it in the sarcophagus. This document is in a script

known as Sharda. Unique to Kashmir, it is in the Brahmin family of scripts, developed around the 8th century.

Called the 'Rishi Nama' or 'History of the Rod' the document claims that this Rod was passed down through the Davidic line, just as described in numerous historical references. Through his Government position as head of the Department of Archives and Antiquities, Professor Fida Hassnain had access to this document and provided me with a translation from the Sharda copy (that was among my notes taken by border guards). He expressed bewilderment and disappointment as to why this was called the Rod of Jesse. What did this have to do with Jesus? I explained this to him.

The Tree of Jesse- or Rod of Jesse- refers to the ancestors of Christ. It originates in the Book of Isaiah 11:1-

'And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.' From the Midrash Yelammedenu-

> 'The staff with which Jacob crossed the Jordan is identical with that which Judah gave to his daughter-in-law, Tamar (Genesis 32:10, 38:18). It is likewise the holy rod with which Moses worked (Exodus 4:20, 21), with which Aaron performed wonders before Pharaoh (Exodus 7:10), and with which, finally, David slew the giant Goliath (I Samuel 17:40). David left it to his descendants, and the Davidic kings used it as a scepter until the destruction of the Temple, when it miraculously disappeared. When the Messiah comes it will be given to him for a scepter in token of his authority over the heathen.'

In one version (Pirkei Avoth 5:9, and Mekhilta, Beshallaḥ, ed. Weiss, iv. 60) God created the Rod on the sixth day of Creation and gave it to Adam when he was driven from paradise. After it had passed through the hands of Shem, Enoch, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob successively, it came into the possession of Joseph the Patriarch and accompanied his body when his family brought his bones out of Egypt. The following represents the 12 tribes freed by Ptolemy from Egypt. This begins the legends of the "Lost Tribes' scattered throughout Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. The chart shows the relatedness of Jesus, Jesse, Gondopharnes and the tribe of Gad, who were among the magi that visited Jesus at his birth. We also see the relatedness of Siddharta Guatama (Buddha) to Jesus and Hebrews through Sakyas. Saka is a form of the name Isaac-Ishakar.The consonants appear as S-C or S-K. No vowels are used in Hebrew. The name Gautam is the name Gaud, for the "t" can sound as a "d", becoming the Hebrew name for Gad, which is pronounced same as 'God.'.[81] Shakya is a Suryavanshi Kshatriya clan of the Hindu religion. Kashyapa was also of this lineage. The Sakyas formed an independent state whose capital was Kapilavastu- present-day Nepal. India recorded visits of Jesus here and in nearby Magadha.

THE TWELVE TRIBES

1. Tribe of Reuben
Josephus
Elisha
Hezekiah
Zechariah
John
Ezekiel

2. Tribe of Simeon
Judah
Shalmi
Simon
Samuel
Addai
Mattathias

3. Tribe of Levi
Nehemiah
Daki
Joseph
Theodosius
Basa
Adonijah

4. Tribe of Judah
Jothan
Hilkiah
Abdî
Elisha
Ananias
Zechariah

5. Tribe of Issachar
Isaac
Levi
Jacob
Jesus
Sambat (Sabbateus)
Simon

6. Tribe of Zebulon
Judah
Shamli
Joseph
Simon
Zechariah
Samuel

7. Tribe of Gad
Sambat
Matthias
Zedekiah
Jacob
Isaac
Jesse

8. Tribe of Asher
Theodosius
Jothan
Jason
Joshua
John
Theodotus

9. Tribe of Dan
Abraham
Daniel
Theophilus
Arsam
Jason
Jeremiah

10. Tribe of Naphtali
Jeremiah
Dathi
Eliezer
Zechariah
Benaiah
Elisha

11. Tribe of Joseph
Samuel
Caleb
Josephus
Judah
Jonathan
Dositheus

12. Tribe of Benjamin
Isalus
Ezekiel
John
Theodosius
Arsam
Abijah

We have further identification of the Rod and the tomb with Jesus from the ancient history book of Kashmir, the Rajatarangini. This is a chronology of ancient kings of Kashmir, and includes a description of a young prince who was hung on a stake, and had a 'titulus.' appear on his forehead. There is confusion and disagreement about this king list, the names and the dates written by Kalhana are not entirely accurate. There are similar problems with Egyptian Pharaonic lists. However, the evidence we are going to examine throughout this book suggests that Jesus appears twice on the Kashmir king list, once connected to a young crucified prince, then years later returning as King Pravarasena, This king had a ceremonial sword that he was very proud of. Such a sword was placed in the Roza Bal tomb with a stone depiction of the crucifixion wounds suggesting that Jesus and King Pravarasena must have been the same man. There are other historical references that suggest they were the same man, such as the glowing white hair and the reference to 'king of kings' who sought Pravarasena for his advise, or simply to pay him homage.

The local Muslim population does not believe this is the real tomb of Jesus. Why would false documents and forged relics be "planted" to support a claim they don't believe in and then try to hide from public view? It doesn't make sense. Further, we can safely assume that the Muslims of Kashmir had no knowledge or paid no heed to the Midrash prophesies of the Jews. Why plant evidence that clearly supports the views of a religion that you are opposed to and trying to wipe out? How could they devise such an obscure and elaborate hoax that included reference to Jesse, ancestor of Jesus?

The staff of Aaron was among the relics in the Ark of the Covenant (Hebrews 9:3-4). This staff, or Rod, is an ancient relic that falls into the same category as the Ark of the Covenant, The Shroud of Turin, the Sudarium of Oviedo, the Mandylion of Edessa, the Veil of Veronica, pieces of the true cross, pieces from the original Crown of Thorns, the Holy Lance (or Spear of Destiny), the Holy Grail and more. Relics of Jesus are displayed throughout the world. A good number of these relics center on Saint Helena of Constantinople, the mother of Constantine the Great. She went to Palestine in the fourth century to gather relics. The authenticity of many of the St. Helena relics is in question. Why would Kashmir get involved in such elaborate hoaxes going on in faraway Constantinople? Few in the western world ever came to remote Kashmir, and none believed that Jesus lived or died here. Christianity does not support this belief.

The Jews of Kashmir were noted by the 11th-century Muslim scholar Al-Biruni (b. 973, d. 1048 A.D.) in his 'India-Book' he stated-

> 'In former times the inhabitants of Kashmir used to allow one or two foreigners to enter their country, particularly Jews, but at present they

> do not allow any Hindus whom they do not know personally to enter, much less other people.'

In the time of the Moghul emperor Akbar (1556–1605), the question of the association of Jews with Kashmir and the Jewish descent of the Kashmiris was raised by the Jesuit Monserrate, who regarded the old inhabitants of this region as Jews by race and custom in view of their appearance, physique, style of dress, and manner of conducting trade. As early as the 17th century François Bernier, the scholar and traveler, who was in India from 1656 to 1668, was asked by Melchisedec Thevenot (1620–1692), a traveler and publisher, to discover if Jews had long been resident in Kashmir. Bernier reported that Jews had once lived here, but that they had converted to Islam. He said 'There are many signs of Judaism to be found in this country.'[82]

MORE ROD HISTORY

The Haggadah (from the Jewish Encyclopedia)-

> 'That so wonderful a rod should bear external signs of its importance is easily understood....it bore this inscription composed of the initials of the Hebrew names of the Ten Plagues-
>
> באחב עדש דצכ

The rod in Kashmir is covered in an old green cloth. As with the hiding and destruction of other objects, I suspect it is covered deliberately to hide clues that might link it to Jews or Christians. Any inscriptions or tamgas on the Rod are not visible, nor mentioned in current historical records. Sadly, someone stole the filial on the end and all that remains is a length of metal at the end of the Rod that resembles a knife blade or nail that someone may have inserted.

Jesus is not mentioned in the Midrash although it clearly states the Rod will be given to the next messiah. Why then did the magi insure that Joseph was given the Rod at the birth of Jesus?

> 'This legend of the rod comes from the Syrian, Solomon, in his "Book of the Bee" ("Anecdota Oxoniensia, Semitic Series," vol. i. part ii.). According to it the staff is a fragment of the Tree of Knowledge, and was successively in the possession of Shem., of the three Patriarchs, and of Judah, just as in the Jewish legend. From Judah it descended to Pharez, ancestor of David and of the Messiah. After Pharez's death an angel carried it to the mountains of Moab and buried it there, where the pious Jethro found it. When Moses, at Jethro's request, went in search of it, the rod was brought to him by an angel. With this staff Aaron and Moses performed all the miracles related in Scripture, noteworthy among which was the swallowing up of the wonder-working rods of the Egyptian Posdi. Joshua received it from Moses

and made use of it in his wars (Josh. viii. 18); and Joshua, in turn, delivered it to Phinehas, who buried it in Jerusalem. There it remained hidden until the birth of Jesus, when the place of its concealment was revealed to Joseph, who took it with him on the journey to Egypt. Judas Iscariot stole it from James, brother of Jesus, who had received it from Joseph. At Jesus' crucifixion the Jews had no wood for the transverse beam of the cross, so Judas produced the staff for that purpose ("Book of the Bee," Syr. ed., pp. 50-53; Eng. ed., pp. 50-52). This typological explanation of Moses' rod as the cross is not a novel one. Origen on Exodus (chap. vii.) says: "This rod of Moses, with which he subdued the Egyptians, is the symbol of the cross of Jesus, who conquered the world." Christian legend has preserved the Jewish accounts of the rod of the Messiah and made concrete fact of the idea. Other Western legends concerning the connection of the cross and the rod may be found in Seymour, "The Cross," 1898, p. 83.

{Source:.greatdreams.com/aarons-rod.htm}

Whether or not the rod served as a cross beam at his crucifixion isn't the point. The point is that the rod *was* associated with Jesus since his birth in diverse chronicles. Other than the Ark of the Covenant, and the Holy Grail, I cannot imagine a Biblical relic more significant and powerful than the Rod of Moses.

DEATH OF MOSES



Deuteronomy 34:5-

'And Moses died there… in the land of Moab, by the word of God. And they buried him in the land of Moab, facing Beth Peor, and man does not know his gravesite to this day.'

Beth Peor, according to the Jewish Encyclopedia[83], is associated with a primary, idolatrous god, Baal. Peor was also a mountain in Moab. In Hebrew, Beth means 'a house' or 'house of' and Peor means 'a gaping or opening', as in a mountain. However, no place corresponding to these mountainous descriptions has ever actually been identified, except in Kashmir.

Then to add further confusion, it was written in a part of the Talmud called the *Sotah* 13b [84] that '*Moses didn't die.*' What does this mean? The Torah records his gravesite, then goes on to contradict itself. According to Rabbi Israel Chait,[85] Moses was referred to as a Sachel Nifrad, meaning a separated intelligence (a state also sought by yogis of Buddhism and Hinduism).

This means to say that Moses reached the highest level of any human; he operated completely through his intelligence and in complete control of his instincts.

His physical body represented only a limited purpose, to interact with his fellow man. The Rabbinical conclusion is that God must have *orchestrated* the event of his death in order that there would be no possibility that Moses would become deified.

There is a Midrashic (allegorical) statement, one that Rabbi Israel Chait also mentions, which is quite interesting from a Kashmiri perspective. After Moses died (abandoned his physical body) people sought out his burial site and claimed when they were at the summit of the mountain, they saw his gravesite at the base. When they were at the base below, they saw it at the summit. They decided to break up into two groups and study the placement.

They realized that what both groups saw was a projection built out from the mountain. When I read this, I realized that this also describes the grave of Moses that I visited in Kashmir. It was a projection built out from the mountain.

Moses is buried in Kashmir on a mountainside called Bandipore, the Sanskrit word for Beth-Peor, meaning a gap in the mountains where the river runs through. It is located on the northern banks of Wular Lake - the biggest fresh water lake in Asia. Harwan (Haroon-Haran-Aaron) is a village here, named after Aaron (Aaron is Harun in Arabic). His grave is also here. In the *Book of Joshua*, a city called Betharam (Beth-Haram) is listed as one of the cities allotted by Moses to Gad, one of the sons of Jacob. Gad was also the name of one of the magi, and a name associated with Gondopharnes. This important family lineage will be examined more closely later.

We know that place names are duplicated and repeated across wide geographical areas. The problem is to narrow down our search, to determine which location has the most supporting evidence. Aaron may, or may not be buried at Harwan (Haroon) and Moses may have been buried at a place called Beth-Peor, but *which* location? Or, he may have been buried, then reburied in <u>two</u> different places; both called Beth Peor, one in the Holy Land and another in Kashmir.

There are several traditional sites for Moses' grave, including one on the eastern side of the Jordan River. The traditional Muslim-recognized grave of Moses is located on the western side of Mount Nabo in Jordan. As with other Biblical prophets, all the allotted locations may have been temporary resting places for the bones of Moses, but not the final resting place, and that's what we are looking for. It would be worth the time and expense for archaeologists to investigate and dig at Beth Peor. There may be a stone bone box buried deep underground there that would yield DNA that may one day help identify Moses.

IS THE ROD OF MOSES IN KASHMIR?

The sarcophagus in Roza Bal tomb never held a body. The body was buried underneath in a basement or cave chamber. The above-ground sarcophagus served as an 'ark' in the true Hebrew tradition, a place to store (archive) valuable relics. When the Muslims conquered India and arrived in Kashmir, they opened this casket and found it to be full of ancient relics and documents; including the Rishi Nama. There may be another way to verify the rod. It may be that names or family tamgas were carved on the rod. The filial must have been very significant. This has been removed and the rod is covered with a green cloth. This suggests to me that indeed there must be marks on the rod that would identify it, and are deliberately being hidden from view. This was also done with the sarcophagus of Yuz Asaf-it was kept covered by a cloth so no visitors could see or photograph the wood carvings which may have included a cross an/ or the name of Jesus. The Rod was gifted around to various mullahs and finally went to the cave called Aish Muqam. Although this cave too was first associated with Jesus, it has been converted into a mosque.



The cave is unique and beautiful. It is wide, and about thirty feet in length, with an arched stone roof and long wide seats or shelves along either side, the perfect place to lay out bodies for a year or two until sufficiently desiccated. Then the bones would be placed into an ossuary or burial box, the same custom followed back in Israel. This cave is identical with the first century Hebrew burial caves in Jerusalem.

I believe this cave was once full of bone boxes and relics- all tossed down the hillside when the rishi-Muslim Sheikh Zain-ud-din (1377-1440 CE) decided to move in there in the 15th century. He had been imprisoned for two years for not being "Islamic" enough. Folklore has it that Sheikh Zain-ud-din found numerous snakes, reptiles and cobras at the cave and succeeded in driving many away and killing the rest. From the time the cave was associated with Jesus until the arrival of Zain-ud-din, there are no records that the cave was ever desecrated or associated with anyone else.

Every king and prince and shepherd had a rod or long stick or pole. Kings and young princes traveled from distant foreign countries to Kashmir to select the best almond branch for their rods. Kashmir, especially around Hari Parbat hill, had famous almond groves. These rods served like a flag or a coat of arms, identified by a family tamga or other meaningful words. Rods were

passed down in families for generations, and are often recovered from ancient tombs and churches in Europe, Rome, Egypt, Israel and sometimes Kashmir.

Numbers 17:6-8-

> 'The leaders gave Moses twelve staffs, one for the leader of each of their ancestral tribes, and Aaron's staff was among them. Moses laid up the rods before the Lord and the tabernacle of witness. And it came to pass that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron was budded and blossomed, and yielded almonds. Moses brought out all the rods from before the Lord… Moses appearance was tall, regal, with long white hair, and dignified. ' [86]

We glance over the words, '*thy rod and staff shall comfort me'*. We think of a simple shepherd holding a curved staff as he tends his flocks, but the words mean much more. When we think of Moses in the presence of Pharaoh, and the rod found in Jesus' tomb in Kashmir, *thy rod and staff* takes on powerful meaning. The words become incredibly significant.

How could a mere rod, a tree branch, have such tremendous power over the hearts and minds of men? According to Mesopotamian beliefs about kings and leaders, notably the Laws of Hammurabi, they were responsible for following and administering the law and maintaining security and order. During times of war and conflict, a king was expected to act as his country's military leader. He was expected to be a role model to his people. He was a symbol of human perfection for his subjects to emulate. We might feel the same pride and connection when looking at our country's flag. All the rules and customs we live by, believe in, and go to war and peace for, is represented by a flag, a piece of cloth with a simple design yet having a hugely powerful effect upon the hearts and minds of men. The Rod of Moses held this same kind of power for each man who had possession of it.

The 23rd Psalm evokes associations with rods of kingship through its words. It was the prayer recited in the Roman Coliseum as Christians were facing slaughter by lions and gladiators. It is still invoked by ministers and priests today as they escort condemned prisoners to death row. It is universally cited at Hebrew and Christian funerals. For men and women lost at sea, or languishing in dungeons, or being led to pyres of flaming fire, they believed with earnest faith that these words had the power to summon God in their most desperate and final moments.

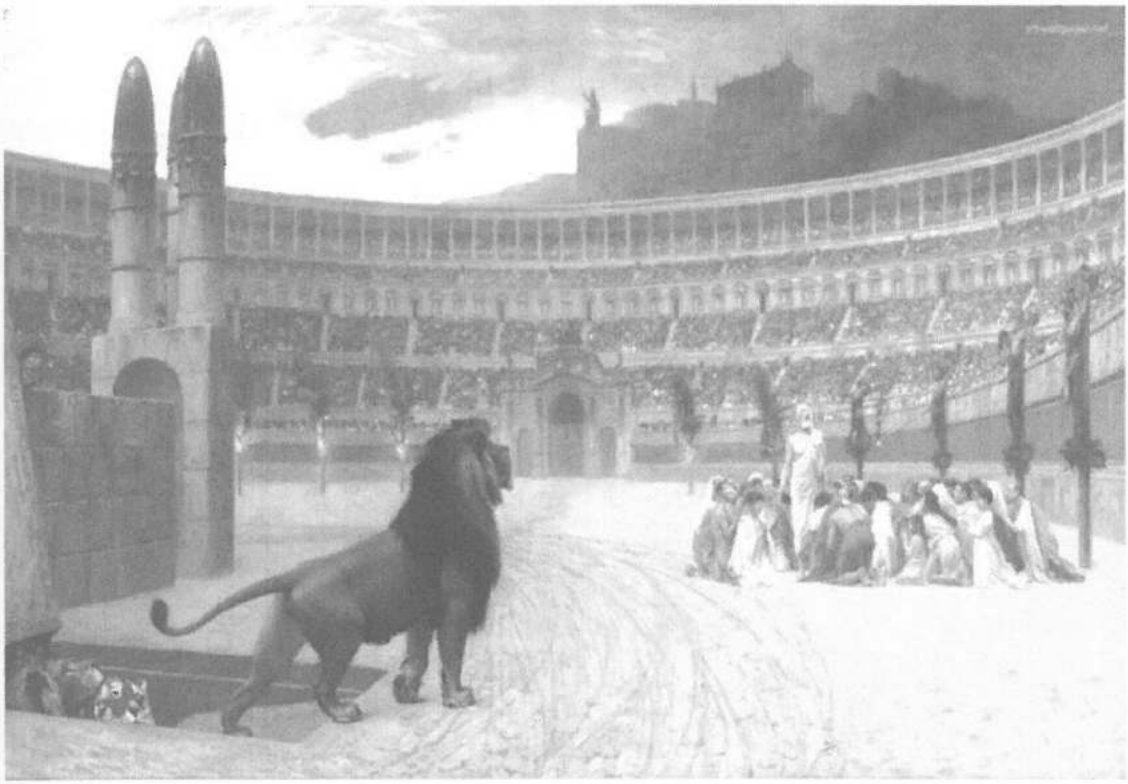


23rd Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me down the path of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me. Thy Rod and staff shall comfort me.
Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies. Thou anoints my head with oil. My cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Amen

All Hebrew, Christian, and Muslim prayers begin or end with Amen. It means 'truly' or 'so be it'. Jesus used it often in the New Testament. It is not written at all in the Quran, but by custom is also recited after Islamic prayers.



Last Prayer of Christian martyrs in the Coliseum by Jean Leon Gerome.

OHM-AMEN-
So be it

آمين

Amen in Arabic
Read right to left

אמן

Amen in Hebrew
Read right to left

ܐܡܝܢ

Syriac Amen

ἀμήν

Ancient Greek
Amen
Read left to right



Tibetan Om



Vedic Om



Sanskrit Om



Sikh (Ek Onkar)

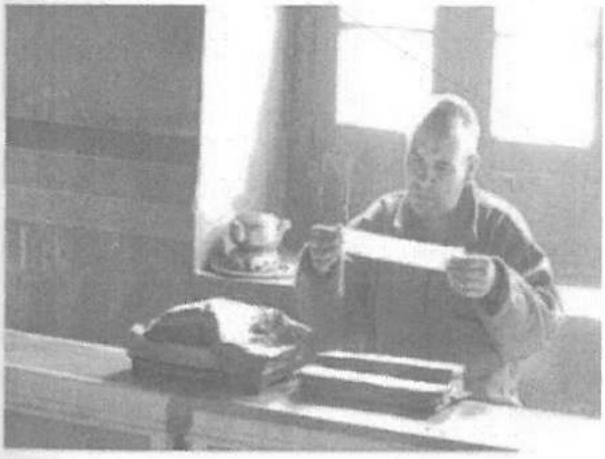
RISHIS

Professor Hassnain told me the document he called the Rishi Nama, which outlines the history of the Rod, was written in Sharda by the rishis of the 13th and 14th centuries. It was common for them to recopy and translate ancient documents that were crumbling in order to preserve their history. Sharda script, the Devanagari script and the Persian-Arabic script were all in use then. Before arrival of the rishis, copying ancient documents was done by Buddhist monks who wrote their copies in Pali (the language of the scriptures of Theravada Buddhists). A rishi is considered a seer, often associated with seers to whom the Vedas were revealed 3,000 years ago. Many ancient rishis were in fact women, known as rishikas in Sanskrit[87]. According to the late Vedic Sarvanukramani text, there were as many as 20 women among the authors of the Rig Veda, and this number could be as high as 35[88]. One of the foundational qualities of a rishi is satyavac (one who speaks truth). According to tradition, other sages might falter, but a rishi could only speak truth, because he/she existed in the Higher World (the unified field of consciousness). We have depended upon the rishis to be accurate and honest when they transcribed the Rishi Nama, or history of the Rod found at Roza Bal tomb.

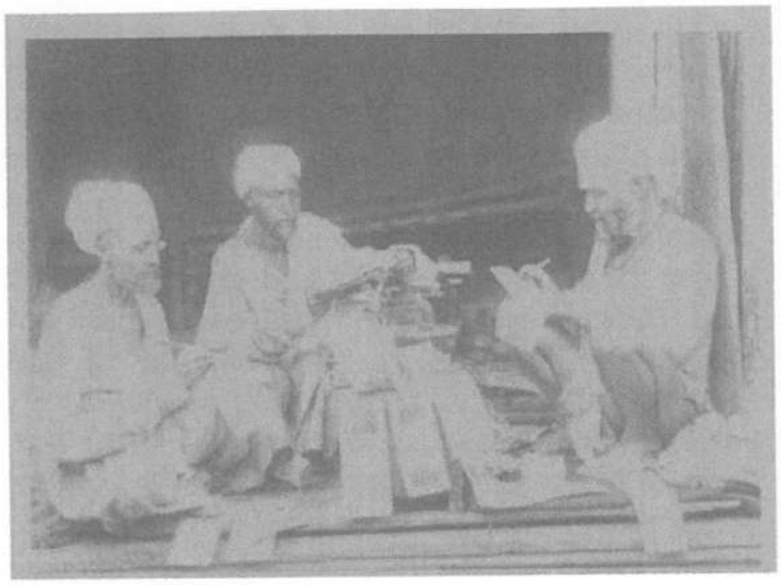
Jesus was a descendant of Aaron through his mother Mary; therefore, Jesus could have inherited this rod through his mother. This establishes the trail of the Rod from Israel to Kashmir and to Aaron's grave there. Regardless where he died, his bones may have been brought here in an ossuary or bone jar for reburial. Why it didn't pass down through Aaron's line of sons (instead of through the female line) is a mystery, unless it was given in recognition of Jesus' unusual conception and 'Messiahship.'

The Biblical death of Aaron took place when Moses led Aaron and his son Eleazer up Mount Hor. Aaron was then over 100 years old. He gave his priestly vestments to his son and died soon after (*Num*: 20, 23, 29. *Deut*: 10:6, 32, 50).

This role as priestly leader passed to his grandson Phineas. The rod may have followed this lineage and passed down from Phineas' great grandson Zadok through Mary to Jesus, following the genealogy of Jesus according to Matthew.



Lamaruyu Monastery, Himalayas; Buddhist monk with ancient manuscripts. The loose pages are placed between wooden covers, tied with ribbons, wrapped in cloth and stored on shelves.



Kashmir priests-rishis circa 1890's, copying ancient texts to preserve them. They translate texts in Brahmi, Sanskrit, Greek, Persian, and other languages.

THE TRIBE OF GAD

To understand why we find all these Biblical graves in Kashmir, we have to go back to Moses when he allocated lands to each of the tribes. Of all, Gad seems to have special significance in the life of Jesus. To the tribe of Gad Moses allocated a portion of what today is known as the Trans-Jordan, in the land of Gilead. When blessing the Tribes before his death, Moses likened Gad to a lion, foretelling the fierceness of Pashtun warriors to this day. Moses prophesied that in Gad's portion would be hidden his own (Moses') grave (Dent. 33:20-21). During the years of Philistine invasions, especially in the early reign of King Saul, before he was able to muster a fighting force to repel the invaders, many Jews crossed the Jordan to seek refuge in the land of Gad and in Gilead (I Sam. 13:7). Some of the mighty warriors of Gad joined David when he was a fugitive from Saul's jealousy yet was fighting his own successful battles against the Philistines. The Gadites were described as "men of valor, men of war fit for the battle, who could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions....." (I Chron. 12:8-14). Once the commitment was made that Moses would reside in the lands of Gad, hat commitment would extend to wherever the tribe of Gad migrated, including relocating his bones to India and Kashmir, where Gondopharnes, of the tribe of Gad, would know of the grave and would welcome Jesus and Thomas approximately 1300 years later.

AARON

At Exodus 6:20, 7:1, and 7:7 Aaron is presented as Moses' flesh and blood brother. In fact, Exodus 7:7 identifies Aaron as the older brother by 3 years! Aaron is mentioned 261 times in the priestly literature. Moses was present when Aaron died on Mount Hor (there are two possible locations for Mount Hor.) Again, we are assuming that Aaron's bones were moved at some later time and this accounts for his grave location in Kashmir.

The grave of Aaron in Kashmir is located in the town of Harwan (Harun-Aaron), a pleasant village reached by a 25-minute bus ride from Srinagar. The signboard from the Indian Government proclaims this as the site of the Fourth Buddhist Council, held here in 78 CE. King Kanishka and King Pravarasena were friends and helped coordinate the Fourth Buddhist Council.

Jesus is associated with Pravarasena because the ceremonial sword mentioned in the Rajatarangini was found in the Roza Bal tomb of Yuz Asaf. There is more interesting information about this sword that we will return to later in this book.

Many ancient stone ruins cover the hillside, remains of the shelters for the 500 monks who attended. All that is left of the main house is a large stone foundation. The tiled floors and other objects were removed and some of those are in the Srinagar Museum. Many went to the New Delhi Museum for storage and to prevent looting.

The walls were made with small round stones in a style called "diaper and pebble," a technique of construction that was originally found only here and in Syria. Off to one side of the main structure, near the rushing mountain waters in the ancient irrigation channel, is a large berm of earth outlined with a low rock wall. This is a typical, but much smaller, barrow-culture grave with a simple stone marker on one end.

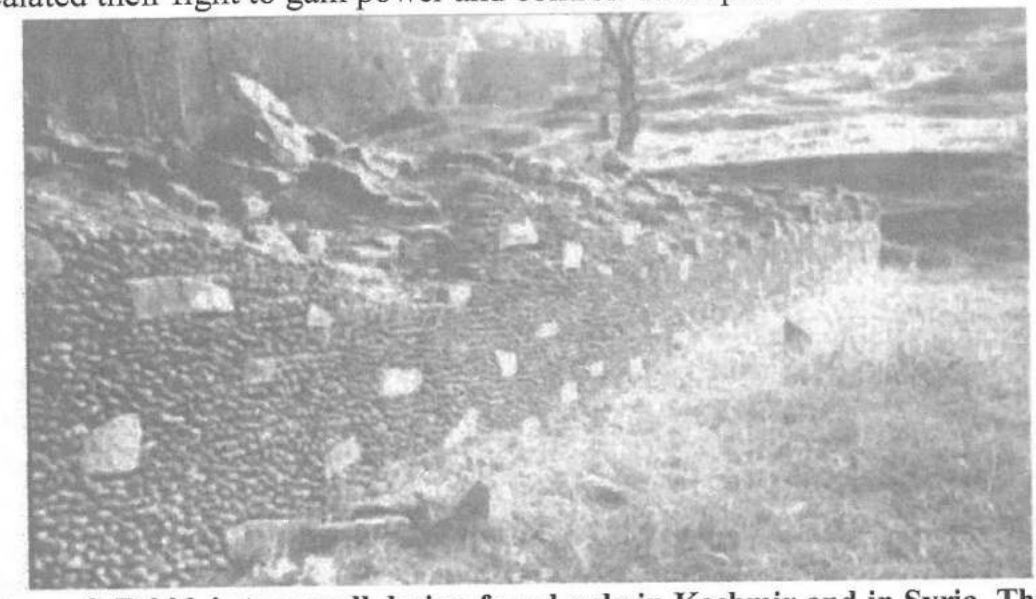
This is the grave of Aaron. An ancient stone slab once covered this grave, and writings carved into the stone identified Aaron. What language was it written in? Where is this stone slab now? It was removed and taken to New Delhi Museum by State archaeologists to prevent looting. No one knew anything more about it, and no records were kept. This is a common practice in Kashmir now, because cultural terrorism and theft of ancient relics is widespread.

The day I visited Aaron's grave was memorable for several reasons but primarily because on the journey back to Srinagar, our bus was attacked by militants. This happens on a global scale. Buses are frequent targets for bombers. Among the more significant bus bombings have been Bulgaria (Burgas, 2012) London (7 July, 2005) China (Urumqi) Palestine, Jerusalem, (Israel has had 25 bus suicide bombers since the Afula bus bombing in 1995), Mumbai-New Delhi, Nepal, and of course the terrible Bali bombings in 2002 and 2005 that resulted in great losses of life.

Several people on our bus were injured that day. As the rocks flew and the shouting got louder, I threw my scarf over my head in an attempt to hide my blonde hair and blue eyes. I didn't want to further endanger anyone on the bus. I tried to help a bleeding woman, and then another brick crashed through the window, striking my guide Bashir across the head. The driver slammed the gas pedal to the floor, speeding away before we were completely disabled and trapped by the mob. When safely out of sight of the mob, every one of us

who could move then jumped off the bus and got away from the area. I remember the look on their faces as I abandoned them and ran. -not what I would expect from terrified people just attacked. They glanced at me with a look of embarrassment because I, a foreigner, had to witness the worse of their country instead of the best, and they felt ashamed of their countrymen.

As I update this in the summer of 2014, the violence has worsened during the past 15 years, especially in neighboring Pakistan where the Taliban have escalated their fight to gain power and control. This spills over into Kashmir.



'Diaper & Pebble' stone wall design found only in Kashmir and in Syria. This is the foundation of Aaron's homestead. On the back hill are remains of the houses built for monks during their gathering of the Fourth Buddhist Council held here. This site is protected by the Gov. of India Historical Society.

THE GRAVE OF MOSES

Because of local terrorism, and because it lies so close to the border with Pakistan occupied Kashmir, the grave of Moses was not as easy or as safe to visit as Aaron's grave. Moses' grave is in the mountainous, heavily wooded hills stretching into Pakistan (Azad Kashmir), an area where cross-border terrorists travel back and forth through dense forests that stretch for many miles. The Kargil War of 1999 was fought within miles of here shortly before my arrival. There was still fear that Pakistan would launch one of its nuclear bombs at India, bombs hidden in this mountainous terrain. Bandipore appears to be a contraction of Beth-Peor. Beth is Hebrew for 'home' or 'house of' and Peor means a hill or mountain, thus 'a home in the mountains.'

It will take a savvy local guide to understand where you need to go, because most do not know this site and will take unsuspecting visitors to any handy old grave and claim it is really Moses' grave. The real location is well

off the main roads. Whether anyone can make the journey at all depends on the current state of militancy that week, or even that specific day.

There are four resting places identified with Moses. The first is near Auth Wattu (*Ayat Maula* the sign of God) in Handwara Tehsil. The next is at the junction of two rivers, the Jhelum and Sindh near Shadipur, also called Kohna-i-Musa, and a third is at Pisgah.

The best-known and most widely accepted location for his grave is on Nebu Bal (Mount Nebo), about eight miles from Bandipore. Locations were often commemorated to an auspicious person who visited. This was not necessarily their final resting place or grave. This causes some confusion, and rightly so.

BANDIPORE-VISITING THE GRAVE

Bandipore, the town nearest to the grave of Moses, was rocked by a major explosion on November 19, 2002, killing several people. Tensions were high, military was on alert everywhere, and travel was difficult. There were Army checkpoints along the main road from Srinagar to Bandipore. We were required to get out of the car and be searched at each Army post, and there were no assurances that anyone would be permitted past the next checkpoint. Each checkpoint got us closer and closer to the gravesite, but also to the border with Pakistan. Pakistan and India were on the brink of another war, rattling their nuclear swords at one another. Tension was high and more often than not, I felt most afraid in Kashmir where I did not have the protection of Pashtunwali that I enjoyed in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Although I met familiar faces here who had secretly crossed on one surreptitious errand or another. I discreetly did not recognize them in public. A glance was worth a thousand words. A glance was our only reunion.

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT GRAVE

There are no signs in the mountains. One needs an honest, reliable local guide who knows the way. On our first attempt to find the grave, we hiked many arduous miles over mountains, only to be in completely the wrong place. There was a grave, but not the right grave. That trip had brought us to the grave of Sang Bibi, a Sufi hermitess, and two nearby graves for her disciples. These are in the traditional Muslim north-south direction. The fourth grave, set apart from these, is in the Hebrew east-west direction. Looking down the hillside one can see more stone markers for more graves almost completely lost now in the fallen leaves and branches. Nothing is remembered about them.

Two trees were planted next to the Hebrew grave about 400 years ago by Hazrat Makhdoom Shaikh Hamza. They have overtaken and almost complete-

ly obliterated the gravesite. All that remains is a rock, barely visible, embedded in the ground, overwhelmed by gnarling tree roots.

Within moments, I knew this was *not* Moses' grave. It did not match the Biblical description in any way, not its orientation, and not its location. Tired and sadly disappointed we headed back to Srinagar.

After more research and more enquiries, and after finding a competent and willing driver, another attempt was made again a week later. This time we headed even further into the mountains of Bandipore, further from Lake Wular and closer to the Pakistan border. The closer we got to the border, the more rigorous the searches became by the Army outposts.

Driving 10 miles or so past Bandipore., there is an unmarked right turn onto a rough dirt logging road. After driving another mile, the dirt road stops abruptly in front of fallen trees and boulders at the edge of the Jhelum River. In late summer, this river seems tame, but during spring runoffs from the Himalayas, it is deep and rapid.

The only way to continue from here is to cross the hand-made rope and wooden bridges across the water, enter a meadow where there is a cluster of small alpine houses, and start trekking up into the mountains. It took some time to get the help of a local elderly man who knew the way to the grave and was willing to take us, but he was terrified the whole way. Several years ago, a group of British tourist-hikers was grabbed on this very trail, the women raped and shot, the men beaten and beheaded[89]. This is near the boundary between India and Pakistan. The forest and rough mountain terrain are preferred paths for cross-border terrorist crossings. Every local villager lives in fear. They get caught in the crossfire, or held hostage by militants who compel them to cook for them, and take all their food supplies. I was wearing a burkha and traveling with several men and women, hoping we would be unremarkable on the trail to the grave, but this was still risky. I never traveled alone, but would even pay men and women to take a day off and join us. It was safer to be part of a small gathering. Being caught alone was out of the question if I expected to survive.

Moses' grave is in a small forest clearing lined with boulders, projecting mid-way up the side of the mountain. The river below could be seen through the forest branches.

The large, unremarkable barrow-type grave in an east-west alignment is definitely a Hebrew grave. The only marker is a plain, narrow rock slab embedded deeply in the dirt, with only a foot or so above ground exposed as a headstone. There is nothing else. Anyone would walk right by and never realize this may be a very remarkable and legendary grave. Only local legend and tradition make it so.

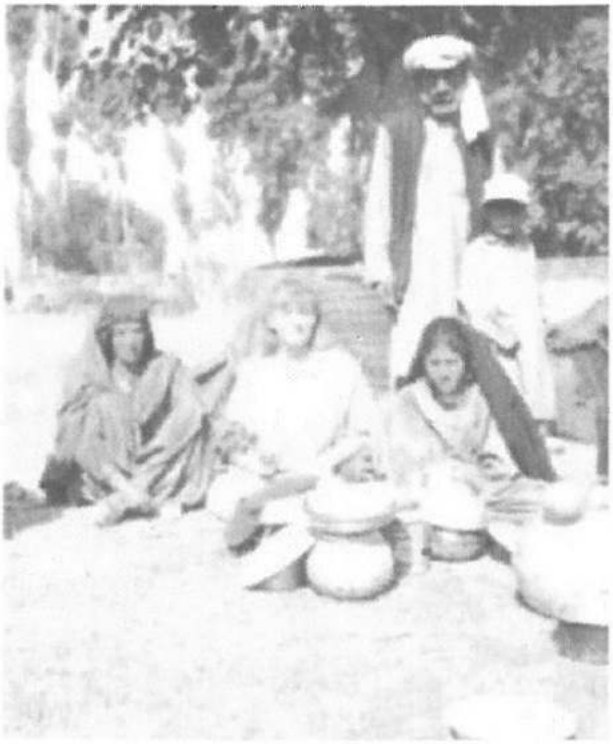
The bones of Moses may be in an underground cave or rock shelter, his stone ossuary hidden there. This may have survived the passage of time and may one day yield DNA.

Curious monkeys scurried around me as the men sat off to the side, fearful and on alert for any approaching danger. For a few precious moments, we all felt overwhelmed by just being here, sitting quietly and contemplating this grave and its history.

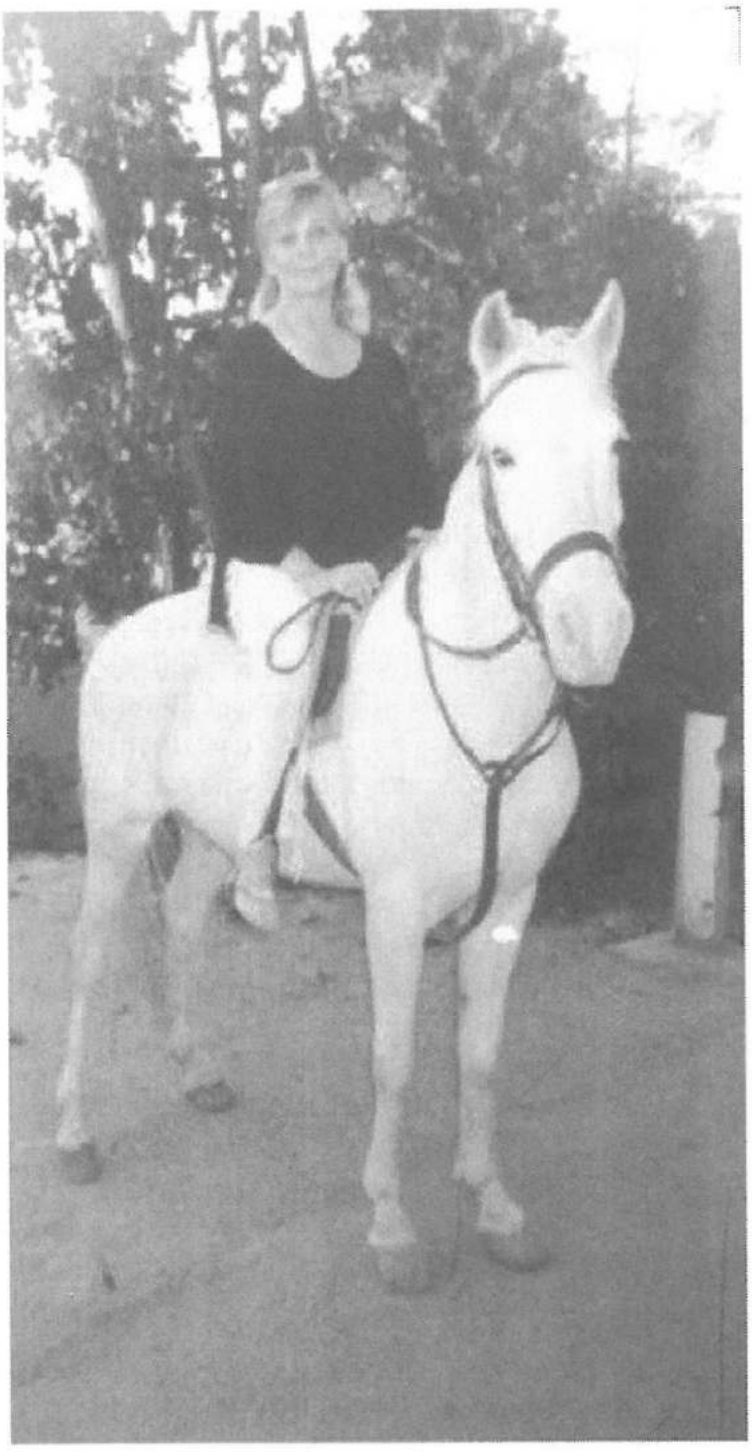
I tore a bit of cloth from my scarf and added it to a tree branch, where hundreds of fabric strips called wind horses waved in the breeze. In spite of its remoteness and dangers, people still risk this journey to say a few prayers here and pay tribute to Moses. The traditions associated with this site have endured for thousands of years.



Crossing the river with supplies at the base of the mountain near Moses' grave.

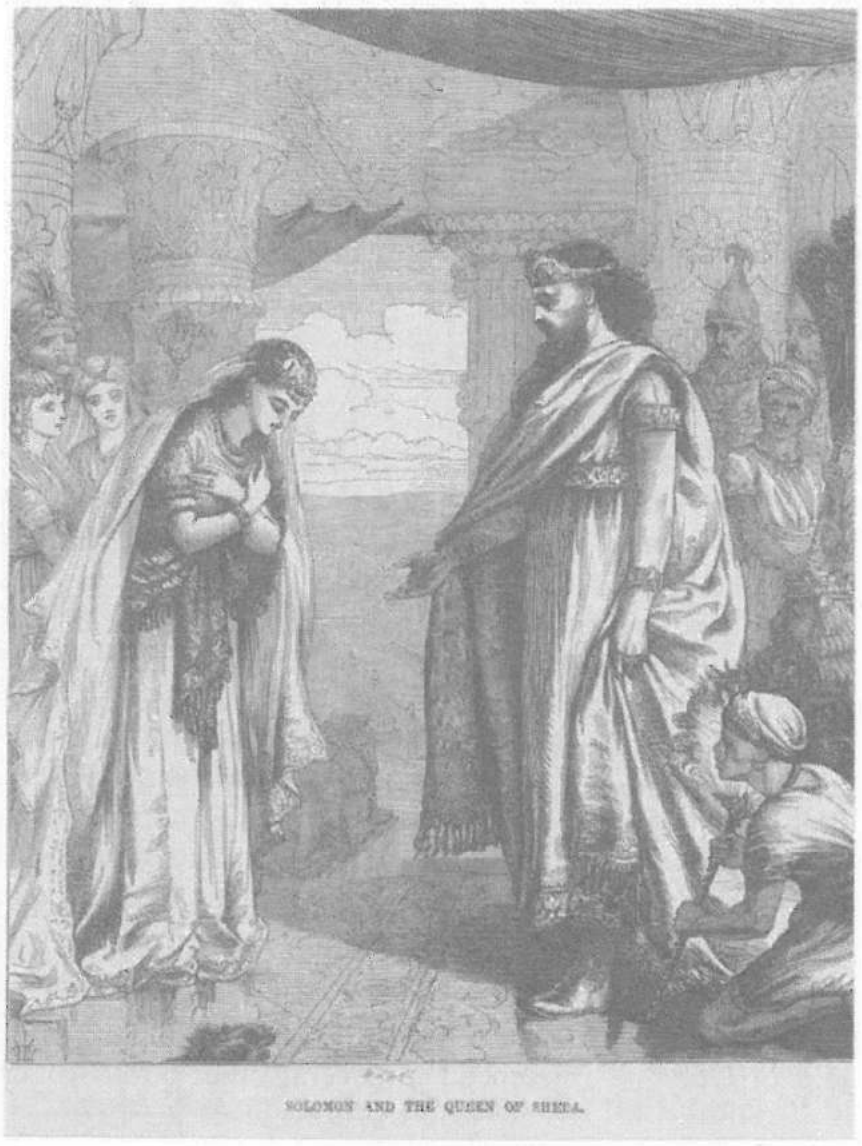


Author resting on mountain trails with companions.



Author Suzanne Olsson in Pakistan.

KING SOLOMON



SOLOMON AND THE QUEEN OF SHEBA.

"Facts do not cease to exist if they are ignored." – Aldous Huxley (1894-1963).

Legend says the Kashmir Valley was once filled with water, making most of the valley uninhabitable. This vast lake was called "Satisaras" (Parvati's Lake in Sanskrit). The ruler named Kashyap released the waters and ended the

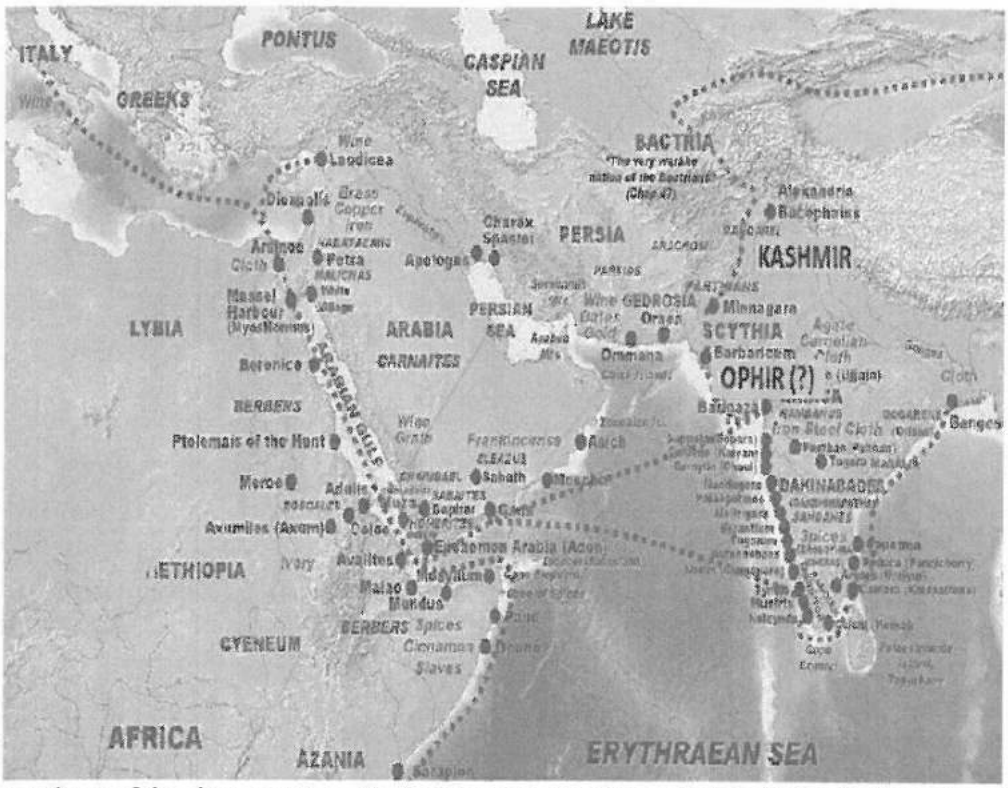
flooding. In the Solomon version, Solomon sent engineers to what is now modern Baramulla to release the backed up water. The water would have flooded the Punjab and possibly as far as Islamabad. .However in another version the city of Baramulla was founded by Raja Bhimsina in 2306 BCE 1300 years before Solomon was born, although it is possible both stories were based on facts, for the rivers could have been blocked several times in history due to frequent earthquakes in this region. This earlier date roughly coincides with the death of Noah, birth of Abraham, his exodus to Egypt, and the start of the Bronze Age. Sargon of Akkad founded the Akkadian Empire about this time. He was the earliest empire builder in recorded history.

According to another Hindu legend, the lake was drained by the great rishi. Kashyapa, son of Marichi (in Buddhism, Marichi is mother-goddess of light) by cutting the gap in the hills at Baramulla (Varaha-mula). Kashmir got its name from this sage, Kashyapa. This corrupted over time to become Kashmir. Kashyapa-mar has been identified with Kaspapyros of Hecataeus (Stephanus of Byzantium) and Kaspatyros of Herodotus who wrote in the 400 BC's. Kashmir is also believed to be the country meant by Ptolemy's Kaspeiria (circa 90 to 170 CE). Cashmere is an archaic spelling of Kashmir, and in some countries it is still spelled this way.

Romans, whose culture was in many ways derivative of the Greeks, borrowed most old stories and myths from the Greek god Hermes and laid them on top of their own similar god, Mercury. The process by which this was done is now shrouded somewhat by the mists of time; suffice to say that these two names came to be recognized as designating one and the same being. No doubt this is the underlying process at work in the stories and legends about Abraham, Moses, Solomon and Kashyapa in Kashmir.

The name 'India' never appears in the Bible and most scholars believe that Ophir is the old historical name for India. Ophir in Genesis 10 (the Table of Nations) is said to be the name of one of the sons of Joktan. The Books of Kings and Chronicles tell of a joint expedition to Ophir by King Solomon and the Tyrian king Hiram I from Eziongeber, a port on the Red Sea, that brought back large amounts of gold, precious stones and 'algum wood' every three years, and of a later failed expedition by king Jehoshaphat of Judah. The famous 'gold of Ophir' is referenced in several other books of the Hebrew Bible.

Details about the three of Joktan's sons, Sheba, Ophir and Havilah, were preserved in three early Christian (pre-Islamic) sources: the Arabic 'Kitab al-Magall' (part of Clementine literature), the Syriac 'Cave of Treasures' and the Ethiopic 'Conflict of Adam and Eve with Satan'.



The ancient shipping routes- Indo-Roman trade and relations before the First Century. Wikipediamap.

The Kitab al-Magall states that in the days of Reu, a king of Saba (Sheba) named Phar'an/Paran included Ophir and Havilah in his kingdom. In the middle of the first millennium, the sea routes to India and Sri Lanka (the Romans called Taprobane) were controlled by the Indians and Ethiopians. They became the maritime trading power of the Red Sea. The Kingdom of Axum (c. 5th-century BC–AD 11th century) had pioneered the Red Sea route long before the 1st century AD. Thus Solomon's sea routes as well as his connections to Ethiopia through Queen Makeda (Sheba) were well established. He came to India every three years by the sea route. He may have remained months at a time to make purchases, and the road to Kashmir was well established and a short swift journey on good horses. The oldest verified temple site in Kashmir, now called Shankaracharya, was formerly known as Solomon's Temple. It seems highly probable that the legends of Solomon in Kashmir, following Moses and Aaron presence there, have some basis in fact.

Easton's Bible Dictionary (1897) mentions a connection to "Sofir" as the Coptic name for India. Josephus connected it with "Cophen," an Indian river..." (Antiquities of the Jews I:6), sometimes associated with a region of Afghanistan. In the 19th century Max Müller and other scholars identified Ophir with Abhira, at the mouth of the Indus River in modern-day Pakistan. Ophir is mentioned by some researchers to have been a town of the Abhira

tribe associated with Krishna. The abhir dialect, Ahirwati, is still spoken around Delhi. Most modern scholars place Ophir on the coast of India/Pakistan.[90]

The Queen of Sheba and Solomon had a son, Menelik. The Rajatarangini mentions Menelik coming to India to retrieve a great golden 'chest' that was hidden there, and he believed this golden chest (or bench) originated with his father and was his birthright. The Ark of the Covenant was a golden chest built to hold the original Ten Commandments written on stone.

Ethiopians believe they acquired the true Ark of the Covenant through Menelik. Could the great golden bench have been the Ark? Is this how it got to Ethiopia?



Gondar, Ethiopia. - the "Camelot of Africa"- has several royal castles that were built since Solomonic rule. A noted center of ecclesiastical learning of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church. 44 churches are here, more than any other city in Ethiopia. The nearby town of Aksum (author's home for several months) was established during the reign of the Queen Sheba. In 500 BC. Aksum became the ancient city of Ethiopian civilization and a powerful kingdom. The Axumites were renowned for their fine architecture, crafts and skills, in particular as masons and metal workers, which they retain to this day. Greek traders knew Aksum as center of an empire that had trade links with India, Arabia, Rome, Egypt, Persia and Greece.

Through the efforts of Sheba, the people of her kingdom became followers of the Hebrew faith, and later would be among the first converts to Christianity. Thus began a dynastic line that lasted over 2,000 years in Ethiopia, until Haile Salassie was overthrown in 1974. This dynasty was 'The House of Solomon' or 'The Lions of Zion.' The descendants of Menelik are called Falasha Jews (foreigners/exiles). Many of them seek the right of return to Israel based on their DNA markers.[91] They do this, not necessarily because they are still pious Jews, but as a way to escape the poverty of Ethiopia.



Arabian horses, coveted by Solomon and King David; The breed dates back at least 4,500 years. Throughout history, Arabian horses spread around the world, used to improve other breeds by adding speed, refinement, endurance, and strong bone. Today, Arabian bloodlines are found in almost every modern breed of riding horse.

TAHKT-I-SULIEMAN
SUN TEMPLES & MAGI

In reading history books of Kashmir, one thing becomes quickly apparent, that every writer is biased. A Hindu knows the history from *his* religious and historical culture, a Buddhist from his, a Muslim from his, a Jew from his, and so forth. The biases soon become apparent and decisions have to be made about what to take on board and what to pass over. However, this reflects bias too. Sorting through cultural biases is difficult, at times impossible if a certain bias is the only historical record that survived.
Never the less, one has to start somewhere.

Two significant sun temple ruins still standing in Kashmir are the Martand Sun Temple and the Tahkt-i-Suleiman or 'Throne of Solomon'. Both temples face east and both were associated with sun worship since ancient times.

They have been rebuilt on the same sacred sites dating back almost 5,000 years. During each new remodeling phase the name changed to reflect current benefactors or rulers. Thus during one phase, Solomon's hill was called Gopadri or Gopa hill, to commemorate when King Gondopharnes had repairs done to the roof.

During another period, Hindus and Buddhists called the hill Jyesht-eshwara; Jyesht means 'the god', Jayesh-theg-vara[92], 'the people of the sun.' Vara is both sun and Sunday in Sanskrit. The oldest name for the temple was associated with the star Antares (alpha scorpio) noted in many cultures, the fifteenth brightest object in the night sky. The hill is currently known as Shankacharya Hill, after a famous Hindu scholar. Efforts in 2014 to change the name back to Tahkt-i-Sulieman met with outrage from local Hindus.



Sacred fire.
Modern Zoroastrian temple, Iran.

According to Navaratna S. Rajaram in *Vedic Aryans and Origins of Civilization,* another name that was used for these temples was Saka, a reference to the Scythian-Persian magi. This also refers to an order of Brahmins, the Maga-Brahmins. The difference regarding worship by Hindus is that Surya is represented in physical form.

Zoroastrians and Hebrews do not have physical idols to worship in their temples. They use only fire and light (in the form of a menorah or other sacred fire) in their worship services. The points of resemblance between Zoroastrianism and Judaism, and hence also between the former and Christianity, are many and striking. (source- 1906 Jewish Encyclopedia online.)

Modern Jewish rabbis wear garments similar to ancient magi, significantly 'girdles' with knotted fringes. The knotted fringes are mentioned often in Indian literature to distinguish these priests from Brahmin priests. The Ceremony of the Sacred Thread for an Indian youth is an ancient rite of passage into adolescence reserved for male members of the three upper castes, the Brahmins, Shatriyas, and Vaishyas. Like the Jewish bar mitzvah, it represents a rebirth or initiation into the religious community. The use of knotted, fringed, string girdles (Jewish tzitzit- intricate knots with spiritual meaning worn or held while reciting prayers) was also associated with the rituals and clothing worn at the palace of Siddhartha Buddha's father. This resembles the standard Tallits (prayer shawls) still in use today. The Thomasine Christians exhibited similar customs. Why the similarities? Hebrews were magi, and magi were often Hebrews. They were one of six tribal families of the Medes.

People of any religion could be magi, because it was a designation for priests, for members of a group who trained together and acquired skills

together in medicine and astronomy and as local magistrates and Chief Ministers for kings. At any given time, as many as 80,000 magi served in varied capacities in the Persian Empire and beyond.[93]

HEBREW MAGI & DANIEL circa 600BC

Magi (wise men)could not interpret dreams of King Nebuchadnezzar, but the Biblical Daniel, a Hebrew, could, so the king made Daniel the Rab Mag ("Chief Magus"-*2 Daniel*),the Hebrew Daniel became a magi priest. As a young boy in Babylon, the teachers of Daniel had been the Megavan, a special class of Zoroastrian priests, great healers who specialized in interpreting dreams, studying stars, and prophecy. (The word Megavan is very similar to the title 'Megavahana', a king of Kashmir we shall discuss again.

MORE HEBREW-HINDU SIMILARITIES

Solomon's Temple in Kashmir would not have been called by that name unless Solomon was associated with it in some way. If it had been built for use by Hindus or Buddhists, the choice of names would reflect this. Unlike other organized religions, in Hinduism it is not mandatory for a person to visit a temple. Since all Hindu homes usually have a small shrine or 'puja room' for daily prayers, Hindus generally go to temples only on auspicious occasions or during religious festivals. Hindu temples do not even play a crucial role in marriages and funerals. Priests are paid to come to the home for these events. It is not certain when exactly the Indo-Aryans first started building temples for worship.

Gobekli Tepe, located in southern Turkey at a place near the borders with Iran and Armenia, is the oldest-known existing temple in the world. It was built approximately 11,000 years ago. The grave of Shem that Jesus visited is in this region at Zorats Qarer, which is 6,000 to 8,000 years old.

In the Vedic period, 1500 - 500 BCE, there were no temples for Hindu worship built in India. Tahkt-i-Suleiman was built 2,500 years ago, but obviously *not* as a temple to Shiva, nor any Hindu god. This is apparent in the names associated with the temple. The names reflect the Persians who were Hebrew-Zoroastrians, and this agrees with the Rajatarangini history that Jews guarded the borders of Kashmir vigorously, and only Hebrews known to them were allowed to settle there. Shikara is the name of a distinctive pyramidal tower on Hindu temples and one was designed atop Solomon Temple at some unknown time. The word shikara is also used to describe small boats on Dal Lake in Kashmir.

The Martand Temple in Kashmir has many characteristics of Israeli architecture. Martand's design solved the problem the Jews struggled with, that is how to build a temple with three dimensions equal but not yet cubic . . . they

have reproduced the Jewish Temple in Kashmiri temples more nearly than any other known buildings.[94]

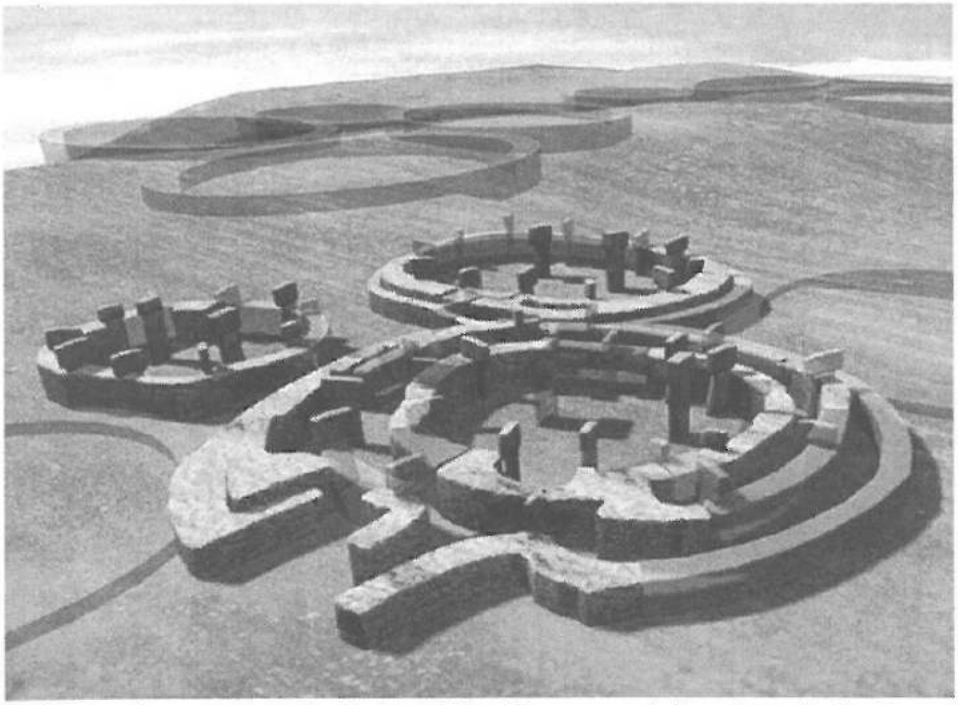
More cultural similarities exist between Hindus and Hebrews, even in marriage ceremonies. The primary witness at a Hindu marriage is the fire-deity, Agni. By law and by tradition, no Hindu marriage is complete unless it is performed in the presence of the Sacred Fire. This may be little more than a few sticks in a pot in the center of the wedding space blessed by the priest. The ceremony takes place under a mandap, a vividly decorated canopy. Jews marry under a canopy called a Chuppah. Kashmiri brides have a 'Star of David' symbol at their weddings, often in the form of a large paper necklace.

RODS-ARKS-SECRETS
HIDING HEBREW RELICS

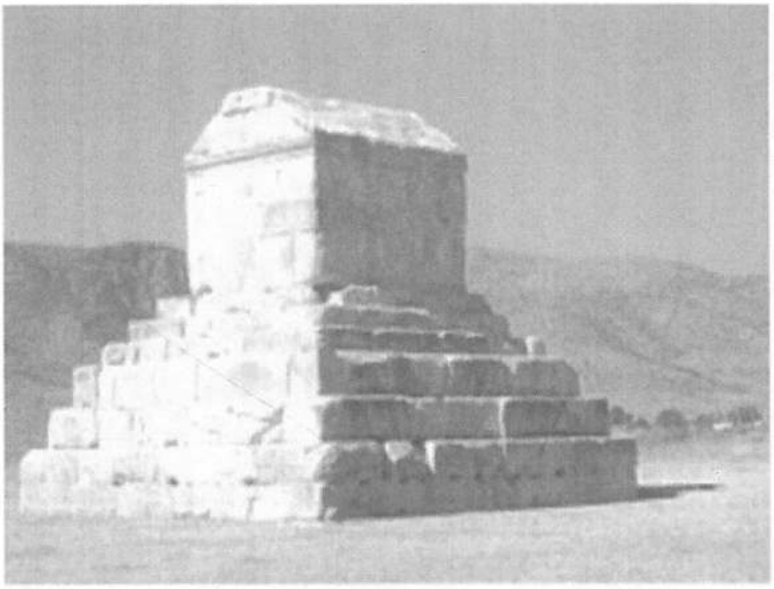
Safekeeping valuables has been a major problem confronting every generation. The only solutions were either to bury the valuables (sometimes in a tomb or coffin) or to build hidden rooms, cellars, stupas, and secret chambers. This was at least partially successful, such as the pyramids of Giza and the tombs at the Valley of the Kings. In other instances, thieves and grave robbers, often the very people who had helped build the structures and bury the dead, appeared within days and stole everything.

A well-known example is the tomb of Cyrus the Great (c. 600-500 BCE). Anticipating his grave might be a temptation to robbers, his son appointed a family of magi priests to guard the tomb perpetually in a hereditary line, in return for perpetual payments to them from the national treasury.

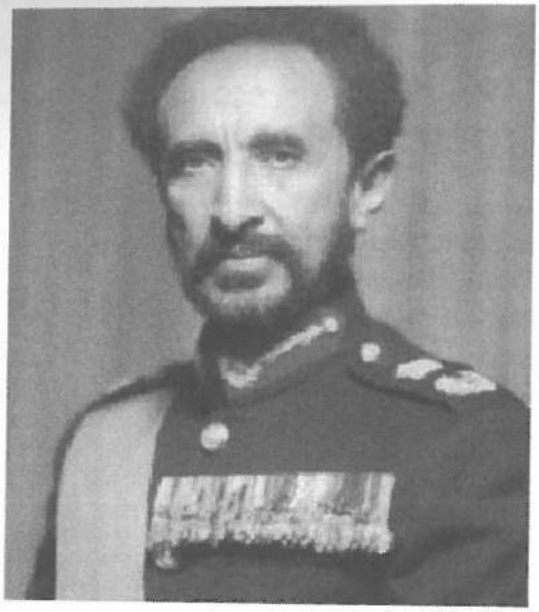
His plea fell on deaf ears and hard hearts. The mausoleum was robbed soon after. Even his bones were dumped from the sarcophagus and tossed aside in search of things more valuable. Cyrus had been a hero figure to Alexander the Great, and when Alexander saw the tomb for the first time, he was horrified by the desecration. He blamed the magi guardians and had them arrested, and then he ordered Aristobulus to repair the tomb. History is filled with tragic accounts of desecration and loss, a reminder of the precarious situation of the Roza Bal tomb.



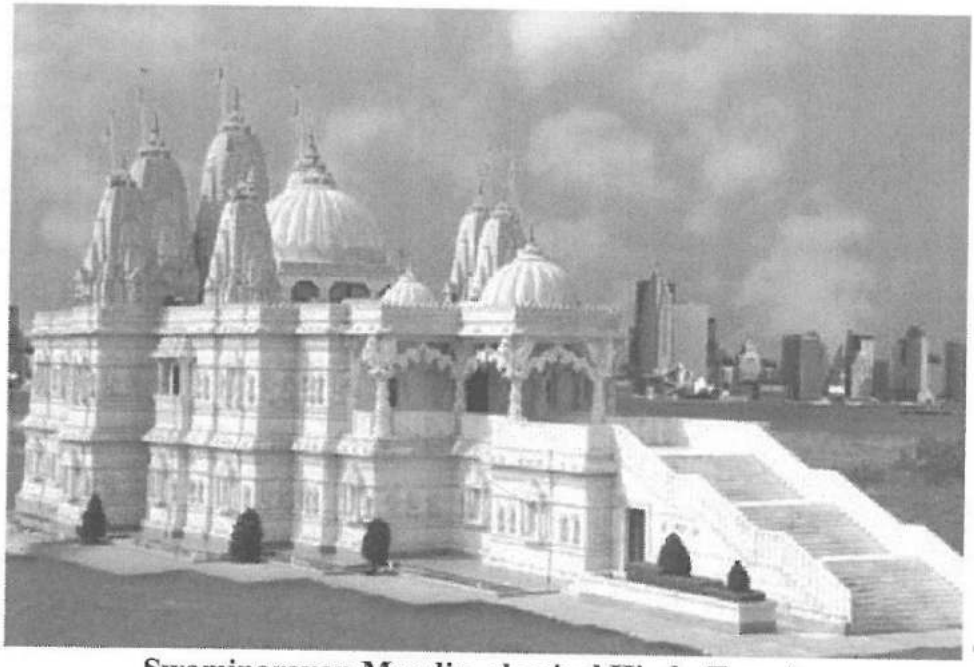
Gobekli Tepe (reconstruction), the oldest known existing temple in the world.



Carved in stone on Cyrus' tomb: 'Mortals! I am Cyrus, son of Cambyses, who founded the Persian Empire. Grudge me not my monument.'



Haile Selassie- (1892-1975) Emperor of Ethiopia., direct descendant of Solomon & Sheba.. He was an Orthodox Christian throughout his life. A world traveler Time Magazine named him one of the top 25 icons in political history in 1936.



Swaminarayan Mandir- classical Hindu Temple.



Menelik and arrival of the Ark in Axum, Ethiopia, also known as the Golden Bench in the footnotes of the Rajatarangini.

MENELIK GOES TO KASHMIR

Menelik is a title (not a proper name). It means 'the son of the wise man.' His other name was Edna Hakim[95] (edna (Hebrew)'delicate' or 'sensitive'--ha-kim, 'wise leader'-a title like eli-kim.) He was the Ethiopian (Abyssinian) son of Solomon[96] and the Queen of Sheba. [97] (Makeda) She was a monarch of the ancient kingdom of Sheba and is referred to in Yemeni and Ethiopian history, the Bible, the Quran, Yoruba customary tradition, and Josephus. She is widely assumed to have been a queen regnant of Ethiopia./Somali and Yemen. She left Solomon before their son was born. In one version, Menelik never met his father until he was 22 years old. He then spent three years with Solomon. In another version, Menelik was raised and educated in Jerusalem under the careful eye of his father. King Solomon favored this son, who was described as handsome, intelligent, and brave.

The years Menelik spent with Solomon were sufficient to make friends and learn many secrets in Solomon's court. According to the Kebra Nagast, the historical Ethiopian account, Solomon had intended on sending one son of each of his nobles and one son each of each temple priest back to Ethiopia with Menelik. In this version, a replica of the Ark was made for them to keep, and the priests who would accompany Menelik knew the sacred rituals to activate the Ark. On his return to Ethiopia, the entire Aksumite kingdom adopted Judaism and the Law of Moses. The claim of such a lineage and of possession of the Ark has been an important source of legitimacy and prestige for the Ethiopian monarchy throughout the many centuries of its existence, and had important and lasting effects on Ethiopian culture as a whole.

In the *Rajatarangini,* it is written that Menelik came to India to retrieve a great golden 'bench' or seat, something he claimed as his birthright. This suggests that Menelik or the priests were not satisfied with a duplicate ark, or

in fact never had the original, and Menelik learned (probably from the priests) where it was hidden. In another version, Azarius, son of Zadok the High Priest of Israel, stole the Ark and brought it to Ethiopia without the knowledge of Solomon or Menelik, which seems like a highly improbable cover story.

Authors, including Keith Laidler, Graham Hancock and Laurence Gardner, have written books expressing different views if or how the Ark got to Ethiopia and none of them are in accord. Some do not believe the Ark ever went to Axum. Some speculate that it was discovered hidden under Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem by the Knights Templar, and taken to Europe. None of them has considered the hiding place in India or the Ark traveling via that route to Ethiopia. Because Solomon traveled so frequently to 'Ophir' (every three years) he and the magi, as the Ark's caretakers, could plan alternate hideouts there as easily as anywhere in the known world.

HIDING THE ARK AND ROD

The Ark of the Covenant may have been hidden in Kashmir by Solomon or by magi under his orders, suggesting that the Temple of Solomon in Kashmir could have been built with this purpose in mind, an early Hebrew 'bank vault' similar in function to the temple of the same name in Jerusalem. Because of extensive remodeling by later conquerors, kings, and residents, all traces of vaults and caves may have been wiped out in many circumstances. Due to the extreme political sensitivity of the Jerusalem site, few archaeological excavations have been conducted on the Temple Mount itself. Protests commonly occur whenever archaeologists conduct projects on or near the Mount.

Menelik retrieved the original Ark with or without his father's consent. When I had the opportunity to go to Ethiopia., like others before me, I was full of curiosity and questions.

Ethiopia is considered the cradle of mankind. Many scientists believe that it is from this area that anatomically modern humans first expanded out of Africa.[98] Northern Ethiopia borders the Red Sea and is identified as Abyssinia in the Bible. There was early and sustained contact between Alexandria and Axum.

The earliest records about Ethiopia appear in Ancient Egypt during the Old Kingdom period from about 3000 BC. The word "Cush" (or kush) in Hebrew sometimes means 'dark', or, in Greek, it can mean 'burnt skin'. This description has sometimes been applied to Mary Magdalene, thus assuming that she was from Ethiopia. Dusky golden Asian skin tones are similar between Asians and Ethiopians. Many are tall, with strong 'chiseled' features recognizable worldwide.

I lived in Axum for approximately six months, the length of my visa and just long enough to get to know people and places off the main roads of

travel. I had coffee several times a week with local priests, and often went to Saint Mary's Church in Axum. Ethiopia still use the old Julian calendar, so they celebrate Christmas on January 7th, not December 25th. This provided me with an opportunity to attend two very different Christmas services that year. I have attended religious services at mosques, watts, and temples of many faiths, curious about the ways that man expresses his spirituality. However, that Christmas in the Axum church was very memorable for me. The Christmas celebration in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church is called Ganna.

The Axum priests remain detached from public scrutiny, attention, and fame. Such psychic gifts as they possess are not for public display, but they left me with impression of great awe and respect.

The priests insist before the whole world they have the original Ark, and they make it clear that they have elaborate plans to get the Ark to hiding places should they ever feel threatened by war from neighboring Eritrea, which has the poorest human rights record in the world, about the same as North Korea. There is no religious freedom, and unsanctioned religions are severely persecuted, including Christianity. Ethiopia is the linchpin to the Horn of Africa. What happens here impacts on the rest of the region, especially nearby Sudan and Somalia.[99]

The priests of Axum are steadfast in their conviction that *they* have the original Ark, regardless how it got there. I strongly believe that the Ark of the Covenant *is in* Ethiopia to this day. If this is true, and I believe that it is, then I cannot imagine a better or safer arrangement for the Ark than with these proud descendants of the magi.

THOMAS REPAIRS THE TEMPLE

In 45 AD, King Gondopharnes was visited by the apostle Thomas during the wedding of the king's daughter[100]. A man was with Thomas who resembled him so much that people were confused by this look-a-like, this 'twin'. We can conclude this was Jesus because this resemblance, and remarks they were 'twins' in appearance, has already been historically noted elsewhere.[101]

Thomas and Jesus had a strange request to make of the king. There was a crack in the temple dome. They wanted permission to visit the temple and 'repair' the dome. This permission was required, not by the king, but from the Hindu priests. They had guilds of priests (like unions) used solely for all temple construction or repairs. No one could offend the priests or deny them their livelihood. If anyone else was doing repairs to a temple, delicate arrangements had to be made in order not to offend them. The priests questioned them and found no objections, so they proceeded from Taxila to Kashmir with a donkey cart full of tools and supplies. This is probably one of the greatest 'cover' stories in the history of Jesus and Thomas. I'm sure there

was much more going on than to travel thousands of miles to repair a cracked dome in a remote obscure temple.

After the temple dome was repaired, messages were left on several pillars and stone steps. The originals disappeared during a remodeling, and replaced with the ancient Persian Sulus script[102] of the time of Mughal King Shah Jahan, written upon the stair case of the Temple 'Takht e Suleiman', also known as Shankar Acharya. Originally, there were four inscriptions in the Sulu script. They were hacked out by religious zealots. Fortunately, at least these two were preserved in photographs.



The translation is-

> 'The mason of this pillar is Bihishti {of Heaven- a priest or angel} Zargar {golden, someone shining in character and a heavenly ornament-Thomas}, year fifty and four (coincides with the dates St. Thomas and Jesus appeared at the Court of Gondopharnes in nearby Taxila) Khwaja {Lord-Master-possibly priest- Jesus} Rukun {pillar of faith, an upright man of God} son of Marjan erected this pillar. At this time, Yuz Asaf proclaimed his prophethood. Year fifty and four. He is Jesus, prophet of the children of Israel.'[103]

On the steep slopes beside the temple are graves marked by upright stones with ancient etchings on them. Local tradition holds that these graves are Phoenician and Hebrew artisans who came here with Solomon to work on the temple. Many died before making the return trip home. According to Fida Hassnain[104], the scripts found on some of the stones are early Phoenician.

There are 35 acres under the Jerusalem Temple Mount cisterns, and secret passages.

There are similar secret tunnels under St. Mary's Church in Axum, Ethiopia.. A similar tunnel, now apparently blocked off, also exists near Solomon's Temple in Kashmir.

After a brief historical mention about Menelik and Ethiopia, the Ark of the Covenant disappeared from Biblical history 3,000 years ago, and has never been seen since. Yet it remains vivid and real in the hearts, minds and hopes of Jews the world over.

They believe that when it is recovered, it will be placed in the third and final temple to God, to be rebuilt on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The Mount is now occupied by Muslims who aren't too interested in giving it back to anyone. The First and Second Temples were destroyed by the ancient Babylonians and the Romans. The third and final temple was architecturally described and prophesied in the Book of Ezekiel, Ch.40-47, but has not yet been built.

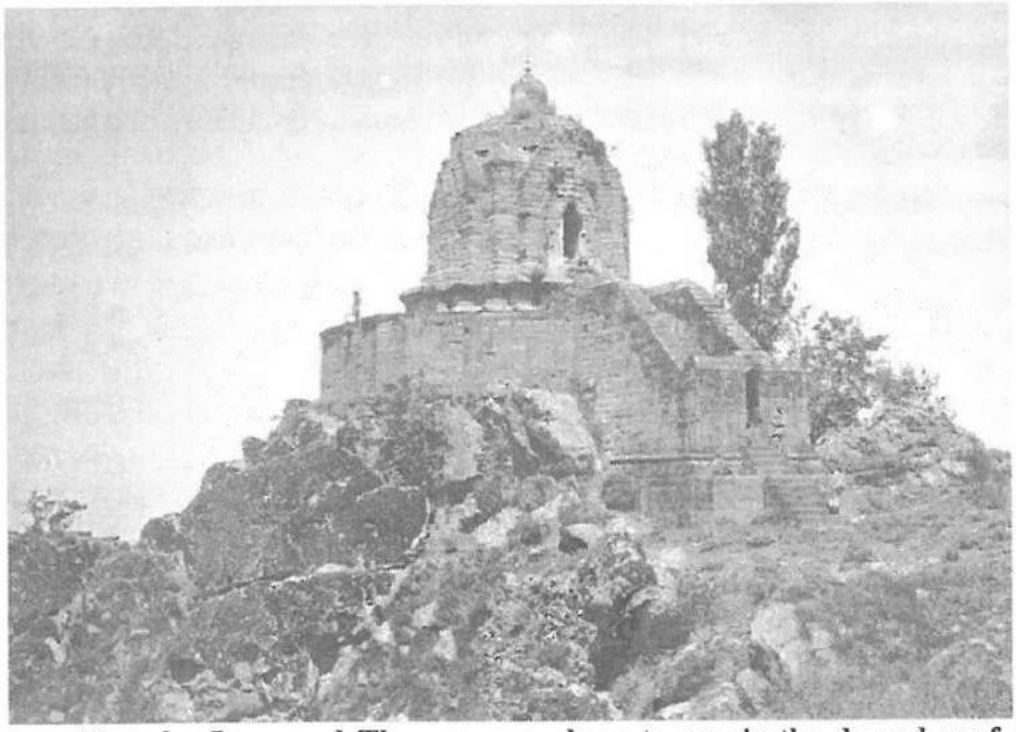
An Armenian chronicle from the 7th Century CE, written by Bishop Sebeos, states that the Jews and Arabs were quarreling amongst each other about their differences of religion during the Siege of Jerusalem in 637 CE.

The scholar Robert Wright in his book 'The Evolution of God' says that the Jews began to rebuild their Temple on the Mount but were chased away by the Muslims. After the Muslim conquest of Jerusalem in 637 CE, Umayyad Caliphs commissioned the construction of the al-Aqsa Mosque, and then determined this was the place from which Mohammad must have ascended to heaven. Al-Aqsa means the farthest point, and refers to Mohammed's miraculous night flight on his winged horse, Al-Buraq, from Mecca to Jerusalem and back. However, this is much contested by scholars who point out that there is nothing to substantiate this claim either within the Quran or elsewhere. Nor are Islamic flights or ascensions anything like the Biblical. It appears to be pure conjecture, a myth created to draw pilgrims, similar to legends of Magdalene homes and graves in various locations around France. Such fabulous stories make money from pilgrims, but have no historical validation whatsoever.

The future of the entire world may hang on the fate of the original Jewish ownership of the First and Second Temple site, recovery of the Ark, and building the Third Temple.

There was another temple site on Mount Gerizim that also held sacred relics. Samaritans believed in the ancient sanctity of the temple on Mount Gerizim. Pontius Pilate massacred a large gathering of Samaritans in 37 AD, who assembled to take possession of vessels concealed on Mt. Gerizim (*Jos. Ant., 18:85*). One of the beliefs of the Samaritans was that the expected messiah would reveal his identity by possessing Moses' sacred relics. (Deuteronomy18.14-18). This messianic expectation was shared by members of the Sect of Qumran, who knew the relics could be found in a secret chamber on top of Mount Gerizim (Copper Scroll 12.4 and Deuteronomy18.14-18)
If the Rod had been hidden on Mount Gerizim and was almost lost to the Samaritans, then this would be incentive for Jesus and Thomas to take the rod to a new safe place. They may have known of places that Solomon prepared earlier for just such secrecy and safety of relics. Their journey to Kashmir, and their strange request to stay at Solomon Temple for a prolonged period of

'repairs' circa 45 AD, suggests this is exactly what happened. If they wanted to do something in secrecy, then repairing the Temple was a good cover story.



Solomon Temple. Jesus and Thomas came here to repair the domed roof. The temple was originally built by "Sandiman" (unknown) who reigned in Kashmir from 2629 to 2564 BC. It has served as a temple for Zoroastrians, Hebrews, Buddhists, and Hindus, and is currently dedicated to Lord Shiva.



Martand Sun Temple, the House of the Pandus and Korus.

MARTAND SUN TEMPLE



The magnificent ruins of Martand can be found just a few miles south of Srinagar and Solomon's Temple. This temple stands on a high plateau facing east. Its trefoil arches form graceful frames for the mighty panorama of the snow-capped Himalayas beyond. This temple is so old that the five Pandu brothers of the *Mahabharata* epic are said to have worshipped here.[105] The Masonic geometrical figure of the triangle super-imposed upon the square appears on several of the stones and pillars.[106] Many of the stones have ancient carvings, but they are now in a tumbled mass, their significance lost.

Dr. James Ferguson [107] said of Martand. This temple is only sixty feet in length and thirty-eight feet wide, the width of the façade is eked out by two wings as adjuncts, which make it sixty feet. It also realizes the problem the Jews had set themselves to resolve, that is how to build a temple with three dimensions equal but not yet cubic. At Jerusalem, that temple was 100 cubits, or 150 feet in length, breadth, and height. At Martand, these dimensions were only sixty feet. In all of the Kashmiri temples, it is one of the points of interest that they create the *Jewish temple* here more nearly than any other known building.

Philostratus had provided us with a description of the Temple of the Sun where Apollonius of Tyana worshipped, and it closely resembles this temple[108]. In fact, it could have been a reference to this temple because Apollonius spent thirteen years as a student in Kashmir, and has often been compared with Jesus. Some scholars believe that Apollonius was the same man as Paul the Apostle or Paul of Tarsus, and there is compelling evidence to support this. [109]

Apollonius wanted to continue the work of Pythagoras, whom he described as his spiritual ancestor. Five centuries before Apollonius, Pythagoras had acquired knowledge of the Brahmin and Zoroastrian sages.[110] Philostratus described the wise men of Kashmir as 'Sages who dwell on earth yet are not of this earth, who possess nothing, yet all things'.

When Apollonius left Kashmir, he wrote a farewell letter to the sages that said-

> 'Iarchus and the other sages, greetings from Apollonius. I came to you by land, and with your aid, I return by sea, and I might even return by air, such is the wisdom you have imparted to me.'

According to his traveling companion Damis (or Demas) Apollonius indeed had ascended with the sages of Kashmir at least once. Such stories of ancient flight abound in India and ignite our imaginations, and I am right back to asking you-YOU- dear reader, what explanation would you offer?



'Diana. Reposing' by Paul Jaques Aime Baudry (1828-1886). The crescent moon in her hair identifies her. She was Artemis to the Greeks, Aphrodite to the Romans, and Al-Lat, daughter of Allah, to the Arabs. They believe she resided in the Kabbah. Celestial symbols were also used by people of Central Asia and Siberia. The crescent moon and star were used to represent the Carthaginian goddess Tanit or the Greek goddess Diana. The city of Byzantium (later known as Constantinople and Istanbul) adopted the crescent moon as its symbol in honor of the goddess Diana.

Martand in Kashmir is comparable with the Temple of Diana in Ephesus, where Paul addressed the Ephesians. In total, it took 220 years to build with assistance from many of the Greek states. It was an incredibly sturdy building, so much so that its vaults were used to store the wealth of the surrounding people. It became the banking center of Asia because the builders had mastered so well the art of secret chambers and fortified tunnels. The temple of Diana, also known as the Temple of Artemis, was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the center of religious and financial life. The temple was also a center for the fine arts, essentially a museum where some of the finest statuary and paintings could be seen. It was home to a thriving 'religious industry' catering to the needs to those visiting the temple and providing images and shrines of Diana that could be purchased and taken away. It was the silversmith merchants at the Ephesus temple that first raised the alarm about the Christian religion overtaking the cult of Diana. The remains of that temple are still standing, and the remains of Martand appear in the photo.

BRAMHA-ABRAHAM

Bharata is formed from the Sanskrit root 'Bhara', which under the sway of the rule of vowelization, may assume the form 'Ibhar', 'Iber', 'Ibhray', 'Ibhri', 'Ibri', 'Ibrini' etc., words which all have been equated with the term Hebrew. The Magi of Persia called their religion Kesh-î-Ibrahim, and trace their religious books to Abraham.

Another meaning of the term Savitr (the Sanskrit form of the term Hebrew) is Brahmana. If the suffix 'mana' is removed from this word, then it becomes 'Brah'. Through time and usage, this would give us the word, 'Habra' which is nearer to the word 'Hebrew.'

The very first Martand temple on record was built by King Ramadeva, mentioned in the *Mahabharata*. This king was coronated at Ayodiya, and the dates vary from 3,000 BC., to as recent as 1100-1200 BC. Ramadeva, like Abraham, is described as a great grandson of Noah..

Rama-Ab-ram-Abraham-'High Father' from the Aramaic 'Aba Rama', Sumerian Abiramu.

The Indian story of Rama runs parallel to that of Biblical Abraham. Melik-Sadaksina was a great Indian prince, magician, and spiritual giant - the son of a Kassite king. In Kashmiri and Sanskrit, Sadak is 'a person with magical, supernatural powers.' A certain Zadok (Sadak) was a supernaturally endowed priest who anointed Solomon. Why does the Kassite (of royal caste) Melik-Sadaksina, a mythical Indian personage, suddenly appear in Jerusalem as the friend and mentor of Abraham? The Sanskrit synonym for Yerushalayim is Yadu Ishalayam, which means the temple of the Lord of the Yadus, the descendants of Lord Krishna's clan, leading some researchers to speculate that Krishna was the Indian variation of Melchisedec.

Ayodiya or Yaudheya would be the Indian equivalent of the word Judea. The Mahabharata, meaning 'Great India' was written down circa 540 to 300 BC, but has a much older oral history. It is a record of 'the legends of the Bharatas'- one of the Aryan tribal groups. Rama's story is mostly placed in the Ganges basin, Central India and Sri Lanka. The Semitic tradition regarding Abraham is contained mostly in the Bible, and for every place named in the Bible, an equivalent is found in India. The Indian version is in the Ramayana.

DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLES- WHY EVIDENCE IS SCANT

In India, after the invasion by Muslim armies and the destruction by Mahmud of Ghanzi, the warrior Sikander arrived. Situations that were bad for India were about to get worse. Within a few months of his arrival in Kashmir, it is estimated that over five million people in India died, directly or indirectly,

because of him. This holocaust in India was on a scale larger than any European holocaust.

Muslim historian, Hassan, wrote in *History of Kashmir* - [111]

> 'This country possessed from the times of Hindu Rajas many temples that were like the wonders of the world. Their workmanship was so fine and delicate that one found himself bewildered at their sight. Sikander, goaded by feelings of bigotry, destroyed them and leveled them... In the first instance, he turned his attention towards the Martand temple built by Ram on Mattan Kareva (river). For one full year, he tried to demolish it but failed. At last, in sheer dismay, he dug out stones from its base and brought in enough wood to set fire to the temple. The gold gilt paintings on its walls were destroyed and the walls surrounding its premises were demolished. Its magnificent ceiling fell to ashes. Its ruins even now strike wonder in men's minds. At Bijbehara, three hundred temples including the famous Vijiveshwara temple were also destroyed. At Martand, Sikander gathered great piles of wood and started a huge bonfire inside the temple. As the massive cedar beams burned, the great golden-domed roof collapsed. Then, stone by stone, the temple was dismantled and the stones were used to build nearby mosques and homes. Martand temple stones with ancient inscriptions still turn up in odd places around the vicinity of Martand.' [112] In *Converted Kashmir-Memorial of Mistakes: A Bitter Saga of Religious Conversions*-
>
> 'The demonic gaze of Sikander fell on all the sacred and spiritual centers. All writings were thrown into Dal Lake and buried under piles of clay and stone. It took a year to destroy Martand.'

One Buddhist monk in particular would not be forced into conversion. He would not give up his faith or his name. Instead, he gathered about twenty family members and planned for their immediate escape.

They attempted to cross through a Himalayan pass that led to the Buddhist capital city of Leh, in Ladakh. The children, the grandchildren, and the parents, each hoisted a large basket onto their backs. Each basket was filled with priceless ancient manuscripts and relics, hastily gathered by the monks from local temples. They did not carry enough food and warm blankets for the journey. They hoped to make it to one of the Buddhist monasteries in nearby Ladakh. However, they perished in a sudden snowstorm. Their bodies were found huddled together the following spring (from *Buddhism in Kashmir* by N.K. Singh).

Within one or two generations, all traces of Kashmir antiquities and culture were wiped out. All traces of having been Roman, Greek, Hebrew, Buddhist, Jain, Zoroastrian, Brahmin, Pandit or a Christian were gone. Entire family names and their genealogies that had proudly survived intact for generations

vanished. It was as though they had never existed. This accounts for why we cannot find more evidence of Jesus in Kashmir. For invading Muslim soldiers and new converts, this was a way to seize lands and homes with impunity, to take on grand fake genealogies of their own, and they did, with great zeal.

THE WINTER SOLSTICE – LET THERE BE LIGHT

When Jesus lived in Kashmir during the first century, Martand was still in use as an active temple for the community, although not in the final form we see the ruins of today. Most probably the temple structure that was built on the site in 220 BCE was still intact.

The great winter festivals of lights associated with Diwali (Deepvali) and Hanukah[113] were celebrated here. The Zoroastrian temple fires and lights were instituted in opposition to the image or shrine cults, considered a 'bad' form of worship inherited from the Babylonians and retained by the Brahmins.



Kashmiri tea (chai) served from traditional samovar.

The custom of gathering around lights and aromatic boughs and branches, and people coming together for these traditions is the oldest ritual in the memory of mankind. Any Roman, Pharaoh, Pagan, Brahmin, or Druid who could return to this present time and experience a modern Christmas or Deepvali would understand the tradition immediately. Some calculate the date via the cycles of the moon, others assign a specific date. In some years all three religions celebrate during the same week, at other times their celebrations may be a month or two apart.

Rich and poor among all faiths came, many with young children and elderly parents in carts. Food and warm clothing were distributed to the poor. Priests led candlelight services with song, chants, and prayer. Such services were so well known in Kashmir that kings and princes in surrounding satraps (jurisdictions) would make the trek to Martand for the two festivals of lights, one to mark the spring solstice, and one to mark the winter solstice. Kashmir lies on the same latitude as New York, experiences the same climate changes

at the same time of year. Similar fruits and flowers thrive in both locations in the same seasons.

Deepvali (Dipavali-'dipa' means lamp, or 'light of the dharma' and 'avali' means a row-hence 'a row of lights') is one of the oldest rituals celebrated by Kashmiri Pandits. There is mention of this in the Nilat Purana.[114] The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance, although the actual legends vary somewhat across India. It was celebrated locally as 'Sukhsuptika', which means 'sleep with happiness.'

Earthen lamps are still used in temples, on the banks of rivers and lakes, at cremation grounds, at the foot of trees, in cow sheds, court yards and shops during the festival of lights.

CELEBRATIONS

When Jesus was in Kashmir, nothing there would have changed his position as a priest, a rabbi, or a teacher. As Priest, he would be invited to lead services. As a rabbi or teacher, he could *not* be absent while he was residing in Kashmir.[115] James Tabor [(116)] says of December 25th as Jesus' birthday-

> 'December 25th [117] as the date of the birth of Jesus can be traced back to the early 3rd century AD and achieved universal recognition in the late 4th century. It is often asserted that "Christmas is pagan" and that it originated because of the popularity of the Roman winter festivals of Saturnalia (Dec. 16-24) and Sol Invictus that marked the Winter Solstice (Dec.21st) or 'birth of the sun.' It is indeed likely that the celebration of such winter festivals in cultures where Christianity spread might have contributed to the seasonal popularity of Dec.25th, and there is no doubt that lots of Christmas customs (decorations, trees, Yule logs, mistletoe, gifts, parties) developed from such celebrations. However, as far as we can tell, the designation of December 25th as the birth of Jesus has nothing to do with pagan customs. Rather it was based on the chronological calculations of early Christians such as Julius Africanus.'

Pope Benedict XVI stated that the December 25 date was determined simply by calculating nine months after March 25, regarded as the day of Jesus' conception (the Feast of the Annunciation). Celebrating the winter solstice may not be called Christmas, Hanukah, or Deepvali by everyone, but it *is* understood everywhere. It is not about 'worshipping' lights, fire, or stars. It is a celebration of the continuing cycles and delicate balances of the natural world around us. These temples were built for celebrations.



I will share a little secret with you. If you visit the Temple of Solomon in Kashmir, known today as Shankacharya Hill, at the very edge of the steep cliff behind the temple is a rock ledge. People often leave their dipvali lamps here after services, rather than carry them back down the hill. I found a dozen or so small clay pots of various sizes cast away there. Some were broken but I went onto the ledge and gathered several good, unbroken ones. The photo shows one of a dozen treasured dipas-clay pots that I recovered from the ledge. Be careful- don't slip! It's a long painful fall off the sharp rocky precipice!



There is no holding back when celebrating two festivals of lights on the same evening! Bandi Shor (Shodh) Divas and Diwali are usually celebrated on the same day at the Golden Temple- Amritsar-Punjab-India. It is an all-out, no holding back affair when Sikhs celebrate the release of their sixth guru from prison, and Hindus celebrate the return of Lord Rama and Sita to Ayodiya after their fourteen year absence. Natives placed lamps (diyas) along the paths at night so they could find their way home. What similarities do Rama and Sita, or Brahma and Sarasvati share with Abraham and Sarah?



Rockefeller Center, New York City, 75 foot Norway spruce with over 30,000 lights. Romans used evergreen branches to decorate for Saturnalia, a winter festival honoring the god of agriculture. Druids designated certain trees as sacred, and would place branches over their doorway to ward off evil spirits. In the 15th century, Germans began decorating tree with fruits, nuts, and ribbons during the burning of the yule log. The word yule comes from Anglo-Saxon 'geol' (feast-December was geola or feast month). The Norse-Saxon word refers to the cycles of the seasons and the cycles of life.



Siddhartha Buddha, 1st century found at Julian Monastery, Taxila. 'Third Eye' of spiritual wisdom is on forehead. Metropolitan Museum, New York.

> The teacher who is wise does not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind. Khalil Gibran

I have asked two major questions about the Lord Buddha. First, about his connections with Judaism-how did Judaism impact on his beliefs? Did he have a Jewish bloodline? Was he related to Christ? Second, had the Buddha

himself traveled the Old Silk Road as far as Afghanistan and Iran, leaving a huge personal impact there?



Siddhartha Gautama, the 'Buddha' (enlightened one) was born into a family of the Kashtriya varna in 562 BCE. His father was King Suddhodana, leader of the Sakya clan, and his mother was Queen Maya. He was raised by his mother's younger sister Maha Pajapati after his mother's death seven days after childbirth. The father gave his son the name Siddhartha (one who obtains success and prosperity) and Gautama (name of their clan).

Siddhartha acquired the title 'Buddha' after reaching enlightenment at age 35. Enlightenment came while sitting under a bodi tree in deep thought. It was his glimpse of eternity, his eureka moment, a split second of time that altered his conscious awareness forever. Buddha means someone awakened; Samma-Sambuddha is a 'Fully Enlightened One', someone who does not withdraw to cave or hermitage, but who remains in public life to teach and serve others. He is also the Sakyamuni 'sage of the Sakyas.'

Buddha left his father's palace at age 16 and sought refuge among Brahmin ascetics. They designated him 'the monk Gautama' or 'descendant of Gotama'.[118] Many believe that the word Sakya is someone descended from the Biblical Isaac. This would establish a link with the Israelites. In the Hebrew Bible, Jacob is the son of Isaac, and grandson of Abraham and Sarah.

Isabel Hill Elder wrote in *Buddha the Israelite* [(119)] that the first Buddha was none other than a person known as Saxon, the Wise One. This is the Anglo-*Saxon* equivalent of Woden or Odin, the wise god. He was also known as Jakku, son of Jacob. She further identified him with Buzi,[120] the Aaronite of the tribe of Levi, father of Ezekiel. Sakyas/ Saka is a form of the name Isaac-Ishakar. The consonants appear as S-C or S-K. No vowels are used in Hebrew. The name Gautam is the name Gaud, for the "t" can sound as a "d", becoming the Hebrew name for Gad, which is pronounced Gawd or God. There are multiple explanations for its meaning. The Israelite character and origin of Buddhism is seen in many ways. After Assyria fell, ancient records tell of a new people living around the shores of the Caspian Sea. These people were variously known as Sakai, Sacae, Sagetae, Sakki, Scyths, Scythians, Scuths, Scuits, Scolotoi, and Scots. In his book *'The Tribes'* Yair Davidy writes-

> 'SACCAE was the contemporary Middle Eastern term for Scyth and the name is believed to be a derivative of 'Isaac'. The appellation 'Sa' or 'Saxon' is a further development of the same name.' (p. 128)

Sharon Turner, author of *History of the Anglo-Saxons*, agrees, "Saka-Suna or the Sons of Sakai abbreviated into Saksun, which is the same sound as Saxon, seems a reasonable etymology of the word 'Saxon'" (p. 87). It takes no great leap of reason to conclude that "Saxons" is a corrupted form of "Isaac's sons." Its symbolism, The 'Wheel,' appears on buildings in the village of Sanchi and correspond exactly with that described in I Kings VII 33 for Solomon's temple. There is also an extremely close similarity between Ezekiel's writings and the earliest Buddhist records and inscriptions. Shakya is a Suryavanshi Kshatriya clan of the Hindu religion. The Sakyas formed an independent republican state known as Sakya Gaṇa-rajya. The Sakya capital was Kapilavastu (near Lumbini) present-day Nepal. Buzi/Basa-Buddhi-Bukkhi- the change of one letter does not alter the word.[121] She identified common shared elements of Buddhism and Judaism such as the lion, the trident, and the wheel mentioned in *1Kings: 7:33.*

The next clue to the real identity of the Buddha comes from physical descriptions. In most of the archaeology sites across Central Asia, it is difficult if not impossible to find any figure with a head or face still intact, and so we have become accustomed to identifying the Buddha images with 'Mongolian' or Oriental features only because those tended to be located beyond the reach of destruction by Islamic invaders.

Buddha is perhaps one of the few sages for whom we have mention of his rather impressive physical characteristics in written records.[122]
He was six feet tall. His complexion and hair were light, and there were streaks of lighter color running through.

His physical characteristics are described in one of the central texts of the traditional Pali canon, the *Digha Nikaya.* [123]

In the '*Thirty Two Marks of a Great Man,*' [124] he is described in trait number 30 with bright blue eyes. He was tall, stunning well-built in appearance, even as a youth.

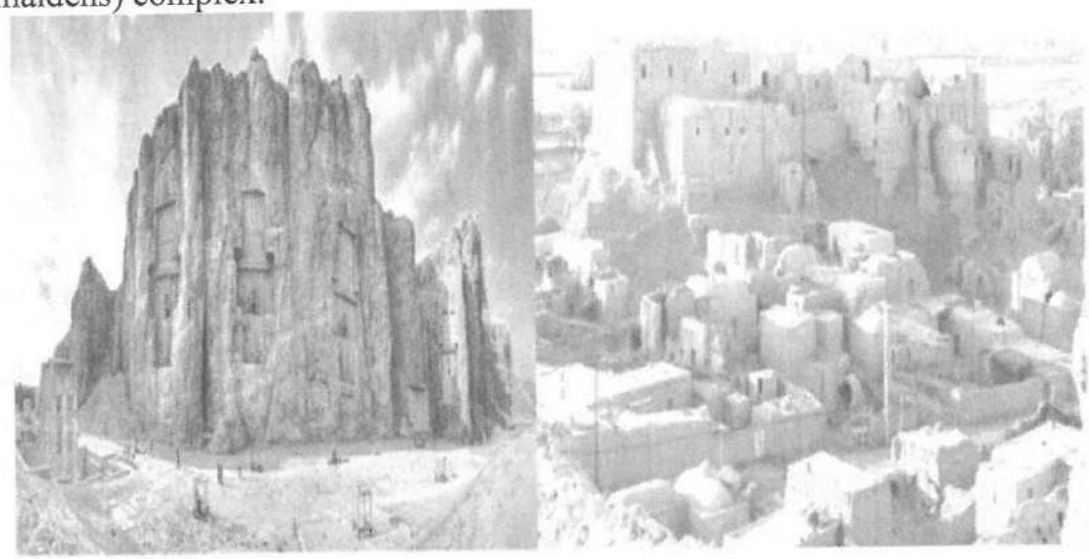
A scholar of Indology, Ranajit Pal,[125] studied the strange historical connotations about Siddhartha and his family, reaching new conclusions. He realized why there were many similarities between Hebrews, Buddhists, and Christians. He made a study of the Iranian and Indian texts, including the *'Jakataka Tales,'* (also spelled as Vakataka and Sakataka) and realized there was much overlooked in history that merged the family relationships between Zoroaster, Buddha and Jesus. He believes that this points to the existence of an ancient Holy Land for them in Seisten[126], a lush and beautiful plateau on the border between Iran and Afghanistan.

The Old Silk Road runs right through the heart of this region. The Sakyas were the original settlers here, and Sakya kings had a presence well beyond this region. Eventually they were driven out of Seisten and forced into Bactria (birthplace of Zoroaster, somewhere between Persia and Afghanistan). About 100 BC the Yeuzi chased them further north, and established the Kushan

monarchy. In Indian history, they appear as the 'Indo-Parthians', [127] a group of ancient kings from Central Asia who ruled parts of present day Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, during or slightly before the 1st century AD. For most of their history, the leading Gondophares kings held Taxila (in the present Punjab province of Pakistan) as their residence, but during their last few years of existence, the capital shifted between Kabul and Peshawar.

The archaeological study conducted in the 1960s on the Kuh-i Khwaja hill identified it as a very important sacred/religious center...due to both its function and to its peculiar isolated position; it could not be a political/administrative capital, which most likely would have been located in a more strategic position.

The Palace of Gondopharnes was at the center with other buildings around a square courtyard including what is known as the Chihil Dukhtaran (the 40 maidens) complex.



Saba-Kuh-e-Kwajeh (Mount Khajeh- may possibly have been home to Sarah and Abraham. This is the location where magi gathered before leaving for Bethlehem. Its pre-Islamic name was Kuh-i-Ushida. Another pre-Islamic name was Qla'a-e Sam (the Fort of Sam, the father of Ferdowsi's mythical Rostam). There are some similarities between the legends of Rostam and those pertaining to Hercules and to the great Irish hero Cuchulain. The area around the structure once flooded every season by the Helmund River coming down form the Himalayas and through Afghanistan, but has since dried up permanently due to building of dams. This is one of the most important archaeology sites in Iran, very near border with Afghanistan. In the first millennium A.D., the site was a major stop on the southern branch of the Khorasan highway, the southern Iranian part of the Silk Road, providing shelter and protection to the passing caravans.

The school of Sarasvati, whom we earlier identified with the Biblical Sarah, still existed in Kashmir then, famous for its training of young minds, both male and female.

The oldest temple to Sarasvati still exists in Kashmir and many schools and ashrams across India are named for her. Buddha's mother, Maya, and his beautiful young wife, Yasodhara, were identified with Kashmir through depictions of their jewelry, especially the distinctive large round tribal earring. Every region or satrap can be identified by its unique style of jewelry and clothes. The statues were recovered from Loriyan Tangai (Gandhara) in Peshawar, Pakistan and can be seen at the India Museum in Calcutta.

R.S. Pandit, translator of the *Rajatarangini* wrote-

> 'The women of Kashmir have been famous for their loveliness-Marco Polo heard of their beauty while in Central Asia-the Frenchman Bernier wrote; "It is from this country that nearly every individual, when first admitted to the court of the Great Mogul, selects his wives or concubines. '[128]

Kashmiri brides have turned up frequently in history. It is probable that Jesus had a bride from Kashmir too, acquired during his first sojourn to India, his 'missing years.' To this day, bride merchants from the Middle East and North Africa arrive every year in Kashmir. They will select young girls ages 13 to 16, usually from poor families, and arrange a purchase price. The only requirement is that the girls be Muslim, or consent to conversion before marriage. While I lived there, the bride price was approximately U.S. $500.00 per bride. This is a legal bride-contract for their clients (usually small to middle-class businessmen) in North Africa and the Middle East.



Jammu-Kashmir girls wearing the traditional Clothing including dejeharu-dejharoo style earrings and jewelry.

Marriages are customarily arranged by the parents (or at the very least have to meet with parental approval.) The girls have no final say in these choices. Girls are shipped off to a land unknown to them, with unknown language, customs, husbands, races and cultures. The fortunate ones have good mother-in laws. The less fortunate are little more than abused slaves. Brides are often seen crying at their weddings. Crying is a way of showing love and respect to her parents, of honoring all they have done for her, a way of saying thank you and goodbye.

From the historical records, including the journey made by King Suddhodana[129], there can be no other conclusion than many of these women were selected, not at random but from an elite group. Kashmir was rich in famous schools of learning that attracted students from many countries. These girls were not isolated from life. They were equally well educated with the men, trusted, of high moral character, and possessed great grace and charm.

What little we know about the life of Siddhartha is that he was well educated, as any young prince would be in his era, in preparation for taking over his father's kingdom. At age sixteen, he married his cousin, Yasodhara. She bore him a son, Rahula, c. 534 BC. This is another descriptive title that reflects either the bondage (rahul-fetter) Siddhartha felt tied to palace life, or a lunar eclipse, a rahu, that may have occurred at the time of his birth.

After the birth of his son, he slipped away from the palace to live a simple life of austerity. He returned seven years later. His young son immediately demanded his inheritance. Siddhartha promised him an inheritance of wisdom instead of wealth, and immediately enrolled the boy as a biksu (monk) in his new sangha (community). Establishing sanghas, schools, and ashrams was a tradition followed by many young princes and teachers, as a way of practicing their leadership skills at many levels. In the Gospel of Thomas, we are told that Jesus established ashrams while he was traveling through India. The tradition continues even after 2,000 years, which is why Mother Theresa was in India, and nuns continue the traditions worldwide.

Siddhartha's family was upset by decisions made without their knowledge. They made Siddhartha promise that he would always get permission from parents before taking a child into his order. He agreed. From that day forward, Siddhartha and his son became inseparable friends and traveling companions for most of their lives. Siddhartha had no other children, and Rahula died childless. Thus, this bloodline ended.

Little is known about Rahula except that he died before his father, who died at the age of 80. Yasodhara, out of love for her husband, converted to Buddhism and organized the first order for female bikkhus, or nuns. At Siddhartha's suggestion, she shaved her long, beautiful hair as a sign of non-attachment to worldly vanities. This is still required of both males and females entering temple life.

Compelling the females to shave their hair has been disparaged by historians who fail to take into consideration the realities of the day. From the ancient Temple of Diana at Ephesus, across the Mediterranean, Middle East,[130] and throughout Asia, temple prostitutes were an established part of life.[131] India is still having a problem with 'devadasis', the ancient custom of dedicating (and often forcing) girls as young as five into sexual service for the priests (more about this custom in the chapter on Magdalene).

If temples were going to be available to women for serious religious pursuits and not serve as a shelter for homeless hungry girls, prostitutes, and

unwanted children, then there had to be ways to differentiate spiritual-religious women from prostitutes and devadasis who lived in and around the temples seeking free handouts. Hair was an obvious outward signal of social status, vanity, beauty, and sexual attractiveness.

For Buddhist and Christian nuns, shaving or cutting hair was an outward statement for the entire world to see and understand. Christian nuns only cut off their hair once, then wrap their heads in coverings, and this became known as 'taking the veil', taking the vows and life of a nun. The idea is to renounce the sexual beauty and distractions of the physical world and remain in the realm of the spiritual, religious world. Women wear head coverings for as many different reasons as men do.

In Islam, a veil is often regarded as compulsory for women, even for ordinary homemakers, but the premise for this kind of veiling is entirely different and has nothing to do with taking religious vows. These women are not participating in temple activities, nor devoting their lives to religion or public service.

For women who wanted to retreat and meditate but not devote an entire lifetime as a nun, one could become anagarika-women who donate their time to public service in hospitals, orphanages, and caring for wounded soldiers. They must agree to five precepts: no killing, no stealing, avoiding harmful sex, no lying, and avoiding intoxicants. In some communities this is extended to include: do not eat after noon, do not wear jewelry or use cosmetics or seek out entertainment, and do not sleep in a soft or large bed.

By comparison, there are 10 Commandments in Judaism, and 10 'Disciplines' in Hinduism. They are-

(1) Satya (Truth)~**(2)** Ahimsa (Non-violence)~**(3)** Brahmacharya (Celibacy, no adultery)~**(4)** Asteya (No desire to possess or steal)~**(5)** Aparighara (Non-corrupt)~**(6)** Shaucha (Cleanliness)~**(7)** Santosh (Contentment)~**(8)** Swadhyaya (Reading of scriptures)~**(9)** Tapas (Austerity, perseverance, penance)~**(10)** Ishwarpranidhan (Regular prayers).



Ani Choing Drolma (b. 1971) a modern bikkhuni from Katmandu, world famous for her melodic recordings of Tibetan Buddhist chants.

Commandments also appear randomly in the Quran, but do not appear in any order, are scattered throughout, and often modified in certain contexts, such as "Thou shalt not kill'-then given exceptions to the rules. They have

been "abrogated" or modified to make allowances for 'exceptions' to the rules-violence, to kill blasphemers, idolaters, et cetera. "Kill not anyone whom Allah has forbidden except for a just cause (according to Islamic law)". It's those niggling little 'abrogations' or exceptions (how is a 'just cause' determined? By whose rules?) These are still the root of world conflicts today.

By the third century AD in India, one could enter a Buddhist temple, a Hindu temple, or a Christian church and not be sure which religion prevailed. Most all of the temples and churches were built along the same standardized plans, and in some cases, the same temples were shared by several denominations for their religious celebrations

The Mayamata 22:9-

> 'If the measurement of the Temple is perfect in every way, there will be perfection in the Universe as well.'

This may have been a reflection of Thomas in India and his influence. Thomas and the apostles had attended a council ordered by James, The Council of Jerusalem, convened in 50 AD.[132] Those who were not Jewish and worshipped other gods, but wanted to become Christians were neither circumcised nor baptized. Should they be? By this time circumcision was already over 5,000 years old and still practiced among Egyptian royalty. Christianity was founded by Jews, where mikvah (ritual bath-precursor of baptism) and circumcision (acquired from Egyptians and made religious law by Abraham) were legally and spiritually required. The hierarchy of leadership was established then, creating the rules for day-to-day ministry of church affairs.

Soon after the Council of Jerusalem, Thomas established seventeen churches in India, following the guidelines initiated at the First Council. The Buddhists held their councils for similar reasons and soon the guidelines for both were identical in many ways, whether by chance or by example.

There were two 'Fourth' Buddhist councils held during the 1st century. One of these was held at Harwan (which we have already associated with Aaron) in approximately 70-78 AD.[133] This Council was convened by King Kanishka and attended by nearly 800 monks. It lasted almost two years-some scholars mention 5 years. The monks came from as far as Rome and Greece, bringing with them copies of everything related to Buddha and Buddhism. If Jesus survived crucifixion, and died at age 112 in Kashmir, then he was alive during this Fourth Buddhist Council, and it convened, conveniently, on his great grandfather Aaron's presumed homestead in Kashmir. Tiles found at the site bear inscriptions related to ancient Iran and Syria. These are now located in the Delhi Museum. Harwan is a beautiful lush green valley with rivers and lakes bordered by snow-capped Himalayas.

Soon after these Buddhist and Christian councils, the two groups established identical systems of hierarchy, including the hierarchy of their priests. Were Jesus and Thomas influential in establishing the final order for Bud-

dhism? The point is arguable, but the fact is that these similarities did not exist until *after* the first century.

Buddhists tend not to have regular public worship in the same way Christians do. There was not a special day each week that must be kept sacred (although this has changed in modern times in keeping with work weeks and weekends off). As such, there is less focus on communal worship and more on private devotion.

There is a long list of parallels that have been topics of popular books; the parallels between Krishna and Jesus, Buddha and Jesus, Buddha and Krishna, Buddha and Socrates, Jesus and Socrates, Buddha and Solomon, Buddha and Enoch, even parallels between Enoch and Confucius.

YUZASAPH and BUDASAPH

Names like Yudasaf, Budasaf, Yuzasaf, Yuz Asaf (Asaph) Youza Asouph, are also compounds of many legends built on the original Buddha story. There are ancient Kushan coins that use the term 'asaph' to denote a 'son of', thus Yuz Asaph may mean 'son of Joseph.' There are also Biblical sources for the name Asaph meaning 'convener' or 'collector'. This was the name of three biblical men-

*A Levite; one of the leaders of David's choir (1 Chr. 6:39). Psalms 50 and 73-83 inclusive are attributed to him. He is mentioned along with David as skilled in music, and a seer (2 Chr. 29:30).

*The "sons of Asaph," mentioned in 1 Chr. 25:1, 2 Chr. 20:14, and Ezra 2:41, were his descendants.

*The "recorder" in the time of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:18, 37).
The "keeper of the king's forest," to whom Nehemiah requested from Artars a "letter" that he might give him timber for the temple at Jerusalem (Neh. 2:8).

Jesus was a Levite priest. According to Matthew's genealogy, there were three Davidic kings in the linage of Jesus Christ who had Levite mothers. They are as follows: (1) Abijah whose mother was Michaiah the daughter of the Levite Uriel - 2 Chronicles 13:1-2, (2) Jatham whose mother was Jerushah the daughter of the Levite Zadok - 2 Chronicles 27:1, and (3) Hezekiah whose mother was Abijah the daughter of the Levite Zechariah - 2 Chronicles 29:1. It was as a Levitical priest that Jesus performed 2,000 years ago, and that was why He went to Jerusalem in the Kingdom of Judah to make the priestly sacrifice.

Islamic versions of the 11th century legend of 'Barlaam and Josaphat' in Arabic were changed to Budasaf or Yuzasaf. Yuzasaf- Arabic Yudhasaf or Budhasaf- is derived from the Sanskrit Bodhisattva. Ioasaph (Georgian Iodasaph) is another variation. The Sanskrit word was changed to Bodisav in Persian texts in the 6th or 7th century, then to Budhasaf or Yudasaf in an 8th-century Arabic document.

The word Therapeutae is, itself, of Buddhist origin, being a Hellenization of the Pali Thera-putta (literally, son of the elder.) Philo Judaeus, a 1st century AD contemporary of Josephus, described the Therapeutae in his tract *De Vita Contemplativa*. They were a religious brotherhood of ascetics devoted to poverty, celibacy, good deeds and compassion, bearing kinship with the White Brotherhood, Nazarites and Essenes, nagas and rishis..

They wore long white robes and string girdles similar to Brahmin and Hebrew sects. The breastplate is prominent among Hebrew priests, especially those associated with the Ark of the Covenant. It is known in the *Bible* as an ephod[134] God-Jehovah told Moses this is one of the sacred garments to be worn by priests during specific rituals (*Exodus* 28:6-14, 22-28).

The female nagas and magi were members of the naga fraternity called The Circle of Mothers. This may have been inspired by the Hebrew story of the three mothers, aleph, mem, and shin, mentioned in the kabalistic book of *Zephyr Yitzira* or *Book of Creation.*

How prayer beads began is lost in time, but they are common to all faiths. Tibetan Buddhism, Hindu, and Sikh all use a strand of 108 beads called Japa Mala. The Japanese use a juzu of 27 beads. Catholic rosaries consist of 54 plus 5 additional beads. Islam uses either 33 or 99 beads, one for each divine name of Allah.



BUDDHA, SOCRATES, JESUS

Alexander established the city of Alexandria, Egypt, and it became the leading cultural center of the world, housing a quarter of a million people with different religions and philosophical orientations. One of city's greatest jewels was its extensive library. Here, the city could proudly boast a collection of 500,000 volumes. Cleopatra (69 BC-30BC) was born and died here shortly before Jesus' birth. Her grandchildren were approximately the same age as Jesus, and he would have grown up knowing every detail of their lives. Her death marked the beginning of Roman rule that would change the course of religions and of world history. Alexandria was not only the true cradle of early Christianity, but early Buddhism too.

Alexandria is where every philosophy and creed of mankind was gathered, studied, and integrated into almost every corner of the world, delivered by Zoroastrians and Hebrews, Buddhist and Christian monks, Phoenician seamen, desert camel caravans, soldiers and kings on fine horses, slaves and dancing girls, and Chinese silk traders walking beside their ox-drawn carts. The writings of *Enoch* were well known here. *The Talmud*, the *Rig Vedas*, the Laws of Hammurabi and Manu were debated and written about. Some ideas

stood above the others and had a huge influence on mankind. Certain men stood far above the others in expressing these ideas best.

Hannah Arendt (1906-1975), the Jewish-German philosopher said-

'Of all the great minds that have influenced contemporary thought, Socrates, Buddha, Confucius, and Jesus have had the most profound and lasting impact. When it comes to broad, enduring influence over many hundreds of years, these four are so far above the others that they must be singled out if we are to form a clear view of the world's history.'

Karl Jaspers, like Hannah Arendt, was a great philosopher. He was also a physician and psychiatrist. He expressed clear Buddhist concepts in Socratic philosophy-

> [Socrates] 'was filled with an awareness of his vocation, his divine mission. Like the other prophets, he was certain of his calling. Unlike them, he had nothing to proclaim. No God had chosen him to tell men what he commanded. He had no faith in anything, but demanded that through thought, questioning, testing, man should refer back to himself. His life was a conversation with everyone. He does not hand down wisdom, but makes others find it. Death is equivalent to nothingness, without sensations of anything at all, like a dreamless sleep: then all eternity seems no longer than a single night. Or death is the migration of a soul to another place. Whatever the truth about death may be, for a good man there is no evil, neither in life nor in death.'

Why do Buddhism and Christianity contain so many elements of Greek philosophers? One answer may lay with King Solomon, according to author R.E. Sherman, *Buddha the Solomon of India.*[135] Was Solomon a significant source of Buddha's inspiration?

Consider these facts-

- Solomon lived 400 years earlier. The Bible states, "Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom." (I Kings 4:34, NIV) India was almost certainly one of those nations.
- Buddha's first book, a collection of 423 proverbs, is filled with hundreds of proverbs written by Solomon.
- Virtually all of the key emphases of Buddha were prominent themes in Solomon's writings, including peace, tolerance, the illusory nature of this world, pervasive suffering in this world, meditation, overcoming ignorance with wisdom and understanding, enlightenment, monks (priests) and secular ethics.
- Every one of the 12 key elements of Buddhism (the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Noble Path) was expressed in detail in Solomon's writings. The main exceptions to this are due to specific beliefs of Hinduism (reincarnation and vegetarianism) that clearly differ from Judaism.

- Solomon's ways of the 'righteous' coincide with Buddha's 'right' ways of thinking and acting.
- An ideal that Solomon fulfilled early in his reign is clearly described in one of Buddha's proverbs, even though that ideal was highly undesirable, according to Buddha's own teachings.
 - The core and bulk of Buddhism can be nearly replicated by following a four step process: a) begin with Solomon's writings, excluding references to God, b) assume reincarnation, c) renounce the world and d) retreat within to insulate yourself from suffering.
 - Today a third of all Western Buddhist leaders have a Jewish background.[136]
 - Buddha's Five Moral Precepts parallel the last five of the Ten Commandments of Moses, a prominent foundation of Judaism.
 -

Solomon and the Greeks had an established relationship before Buddhism emerged. The history of the Jews of Alexandria dates from the foundation of the city by Alexander the Great, 332 B.C., at which they were present. The Jews of Alexandria were a major segment of the Greek population. Two major sections of the city were predominantly Jewish. There were more Greek-speaking Jews in Alexandria than all the Jews in Jerusalem. The Alexandrian Jews had equal status and privileges with the Greeks of Alexandria.

The Jewish historian Josephus wrote-

> 'Alexander [the Great] upon finding the readiness of the Jews in Egypt in assisting him against the Egyptians, and as a reward for such assistance, gave them [the Jews] equal privileges in this city [Alexandria] with the Greeks.'

In to this vibrant atmosphere, King Ashoka proudly sent Buddhist monks to Alexandria to discuss and debate with their peers.

Ashoka sent missionaries all over India and beyond. Some went as far as Egypt, Palestine, and Greece. St. Origen even mentions them as having reached Britain. The Greeks of the Alexandrian kingdoms of northern India adopted Buddhism. The Kushan king Kanishka converted, and a Buddhist council was held in Kashmir in about 100 AD. Greek Buddhists there recorded the Sutras on copper sheets.[137] Many bore similarities with Christ's life and sayings.

The proverbs of the Buddha (the Dhammapada) bear widespread similarities to the Book of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes of King Solomon, who lived three and a half centuries before the Buddha. The emphases that Buddhists are noted for were all part of Solomon's beliefs, including peace, tolerance, viewing this world as an illusion and a place of suffering, overcoming ignorance with wisdom and enlightenment. As a Jewish rabbi, Christ knew Solomon's writings. Jesus was not being influenced by Buddhism, but

Buddhism was certainly being influenced by Judaism, and later incorporated many Christ components.

Jesus was practicing Judaism in its original, intended form, and this was mistakenly described by some as a form of Buddhism.

Eusebius of Caesarea (circa 283-371 AD) said-

"The religion of Jesus Christ is neither new nor strange."

In *Anacalypsis,* British orientalist Godfrey Higgins insisted that Christianity was already firmly in place in both the West and the East many centuries before Jesus was born. He said, "The Crestians or Christians of the West probably descended directly from the Buddhists, rather than from the Brahmins." (Vol. 2, pp. 438, 439)

> "The existence of Christians both in Europe and India existed long before the Christian era... (Vol 2, p. 202.) I think the most blind and credulous of devotees must allow that we have the existence of the Cristna (Krishna) of the Brahmins in Thrace, many hundred years before the Christian era-the birth of Jesus Christ." (Book X, p. 593)

By the 13th century international travelers such as Giovanni de Piano Carpini and William of Ruysbroeck, described Buddhism as a religion whose scriptures, doctrine, saints, monastic life, meditation practices, and rituals were comparable to those of Christianity and of Nestorian Christian communities.

Monasticism is one of the most fundamental institutions of Buddhism. Monks and nuns are responsible for preserving and teaching Buddhist teachings and guiding Buddhist lay followers. Buddhists may join a monastery for only a few weeks to meditate and work for others as a way to gain merit, or they may join for a lifetime. They advance by a series of tests given to them.

Monastic institutions and missions became vehicles for the spread of literacy and culture throughout the ancient world and held an important place in promoting charitable causes, building libraries, hospitals, schools, and universities. Emperor Ashoka had rest homes built for weary travelers, free hospitals for both people and animals, and clean water from public wells. Monasteries become institutions of great learning such as Nalanda University and Vikramshila (Destroyed by Muslim invasions in 1200 AD).

During the Tang Dynasty, the monasteries fostered artistic creativity, cared for the sick, old, and orphaned, and ran community development projects such as developing roads and building bridges and wells.

Even today, in Southeast Asia, monasteries serve as free accommodations, retirement homes, and homes for the homeless or chronically ill. Poor families frequently use monasteries as hostels. They serve as village libraries and centers of news and information, and the surplus money is used to make schools. The Catholic Church especially has devoted most all its resources to the same worldwide humanitarian efforts that Buddhists propagate.

Buddhism, unlike Hinduism with its caste system, or Christianity with its requirements for baptism, is an inclusive religion; it embraces all people regardless of their race, culture, ethnicity, gender, etc. Buddhism is a religion that seeks to co-exist within an existing culture because the human condition is similar regardless of culture, race, or religion, a non-theistic (NOT God-centered) religion making it very different from atheism or theistic religion. Non-theism means that the Gods or supernatural beings are not central to the religion, or a requirement to the religion. Based on his own experience, the Buddha saw that each human being had the capacity to purify the mind, develop infinite love and compassion and perfect understanding with, or without a concept of God 'in charge' of these things for us, and certainly attainable without threats or fear of heaven or hell. He shifted attention from the heavens to the heart and encouraged us to find solutions to our problems through self-understanding. Certain commonalities have been cited between scientific investigation, especially physics, and Buddhist thought.

The Buddha is not thought of as a god in Buddhism. He is looked up to and respected as a great teacher, in the same way we respect Abraham Lincoln as a great president. He was a human being who found perfection through morality, service to others, and ethics. Does that mean that every Buddhist in the world is an atheist? No.

Some Buddhists do believe in God. Others do not. Some are not sure either way.

A Buddhist can believe in God, identify himself as a Christian or Jew, and still be a Buddhist. One can be uncertain of the existence of God and still be a Buddhist. One can be a scientist, especially a physicist, and find much compatible with Buddhism. The Dalai Lama wrote about this relationship between Buddhism and science in his book 'The Universe in a Single Atom' (Harmony Publishers, 2006) Buddhism means that, if one so chooses, he can totally reject the existence of anything remotely supernatural, be a hard-core atheist, and still be a Buddhist. Islam is especially hostile toward Buddhists, regarding them as heathens and atheists who do not believe in any God.

Buddhism does not focus too much on good and evil while Islam considers Allah to be the creator of the universe, as well as being the source of all that is good and evil. Finally, karma is something that Buddhists believe in when you talk about eternal life while Islam's view on it is that eternal life depends on the works of a person in his or her present life as followers of the Islamic path.

> 'In Buddhism, belief does not center on a God. It centers on the human condition. It centers on reality. Whether one believes that God exists or not is up to the individual.' Astalon[138]

One can understand how incorporating Buddhist concepts into other philosophies and religions was a popular intellectual pursuit when Jesus lived. Because of the infusion of Greek-Hellenic philosophies into Buddhist philos-

ophies, a new form of Buddhism, Mahayana Buddhism, would emerge. This Buddhism would soon spread to China and Japan via the Old Silk Route. In the Punjab, the Greek Buddhists were known as Yonas. The early Buddhists in Sri Lanka (according to the *Mahavamsa* [139]) had to go to Alexandria of the Caucasus to learn Buddhism, because most Buddhist masters had settled either there, or in Kashmir. However, Jesus never had to travel to India to 'learn Buddhism'. It was already part of his cultural heritage.

Then why was Jesus missing for eighteen years in the Bible? Did he go to India to study with Buddhist and Hindu masters? The answer is hidden in plain sight. Jesus went to school, just like many men and women his age today. The proof is Jesus the man, who was educated enough to leave a very favorable impression on his peers. As for the Buddhist-Christian relationship, there could be no Christianity without the earlier influence of Buddhism, which in turn was influenced by the early Hebrew prophets.

IVY LEAGUE COLLEGES

Luke 2: 40-

> 'And the child grew and wad strong in spirit, and was *in the desert* until the day of his showing unto Israel.'

The words *in the desert* indicate that Jesus was neither in his own land nor in Judaea. It means 'an unknown place'. When Jesus returned years later as a grown man, Luke said-

> 'And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.'

It is obvious that between the two incidents the evangelists did not feel compelled to explain the obvious. Twenty-nine of the most important and formative years of Jesus are passed over in silence.

The *Jame-ut-Tawarikh* states that Jesus was perhaps thirteen years old when he left for the Far East countries.[140]

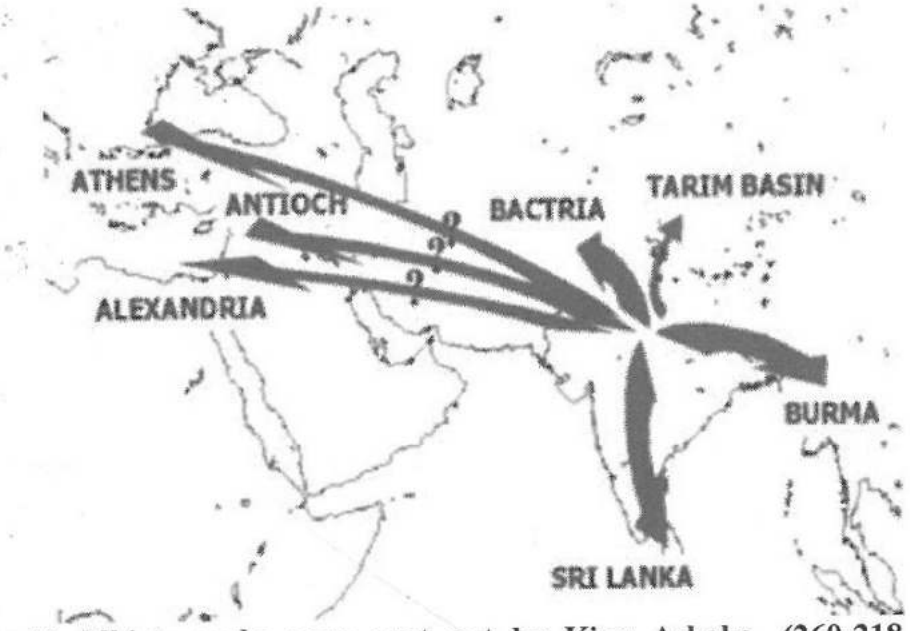
Before and after the birth of Jesus, it was India, *not* Rome that had the largest economy in the ancient world, controlling 1/4 to 1/3 of the world's wealth. That Jesus went to India as a youth, and remained there for up to eighteen years, is disputed only because this information was not included in the canonical Gospels. This is a great loss for the western world, because the story of his life and death cannot be understood without acknowledging his years in India. Further, if there was additional information about Jesus *after* the crucifixion, whether in India or elsewhere, no one in the west was taking it seriously. If Jesus died on the cross, then *why* bother looking for him beyond the crucifixion?

It didn't make any sense. Hence, much has been lost, many dots were not connected, and this has led to poor scholarship and some wild, far-out guesses.

The ancient kingdom of Magadha is frequently mentioned in Jain and Buddhist texts as the source for advanced learning. It is also mentioned in the

Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Puranas. These empires led India in science, mathematics, astronomy, religion, and philosophy during a time considered the Indian Golden Age. It is also mentioned that Jesus and Magdalene met there. We will investigate this further in the next chapter.

Taxila and the Nalanda University in north central India have existed since 700 BCE. This date is assured because Greek historians like Strabo and Megasthenes were the first outsiders to mention them. They were famous Ivy League school-university towns and centers of intellectualism long before Christ was born. Around the ages of 14 to 16 years, families would send their children off with a teacher, a guardian, a tutor. Good guardians, called upadhyas (akin to modern nannies) saw to it that their charges thrived and succeeded. They remained steadfast at the child' side for twenty years or more, almost from birth to adulthood, and the relationships often lasted well beyond. They were rewarded with handsome gifts, including homes and lifetime grants if their students made good impressions on the schoolmasters. Magadha and Taxila were premier centers of learning in Jesus' era, attracting students from great distances, even from as far as China.



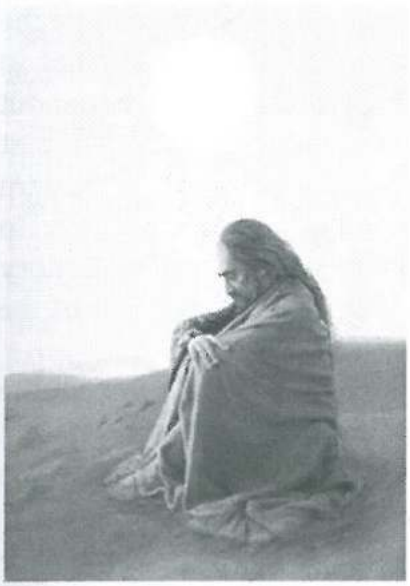
Buddhist monks were sent out by King Ashoka. (260-218 BCE) to spread the faith. By the 2nd century CE, the Christian Clement of Alexandria acknowledged Buddhism for its profound influence on Greek thought.

Dr. Ahmad Dani[141] was a lead archaeologist at Taxila for over 30 years. He recovered and documented thousands of edicts, and best understood the day-to-day routine of student life there. At his home in the suburbs of Islamabad, we would sit on his lawn for hours and talk about life at Taxila in the first century. His passion was contagious. He explained how the schools were

spread out over a vast area. There were a thousand teachers specialized in various subjects, and over 10,000 students per year. The classes were attended by students from China, Japan, Rome, Greece, Ethiopia., and even Britain. Priests representing dozens of religions gathered here. Buddhism was thriving, and many Buddhist monks were instructors at Taxila.[142]

Up to the 10th century, such vibrant provinces of learning had sprung up all over India. Each ruler or king was measured by how many teachers, astronomers, mathematicians, artists, musicians, and other learned men he attracted to his jurisdiction.

JESUS IN INDIA



It was to Egypt that Joseph and Mary took Jesus for his early education, after fleeing Herod.. This is an event told in the Bible in the Gospel of Matthew (*Matthew 2:13-23*). There are probably more places named after Mother Mary in Egypt than anywhere else. The Coptic Orthodox Church in Menufiya, Egypt, claimed to have 'apparitions' of Mary that were seen by over a hundred thousand people in 1997-98.

The Coptic Church was founded in Egypt by Saint Mark in 54 AD. It split with the Eastern Orthodox Church in 451 AD.

There is also an account of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus' visit to the city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, when Jesus was twelve years old *(Luke 2:41-50)*. Then for the next 18 years, there is no Biblical record of Jesus. All mention of Jesus going to India for higher learning, or for any other purpose, are found outside the Bible, often obscure Arabic-Persian sources not translated to English, or more recent writings of dubious origins such as:

--**Waqiat-i-Kashmir** of Muhammad Azam Didamari (1747) **History of Kashmir**, mention of Prince Yuzasaf -- Ibn Babawayah wrote **'Ikmal uddin'** -- **The Notovitch**. **'St. Issa Scroll' of 1884**, was a scrap of paper in the Hemis monastery recording a visit from Jesus to a Himalayan monastery. It was never documented or seen again and accounts based on this paper are considered fakes.-- **'The Aquarian Gospel'**, based on 'channeled' information from the theosophy movement of the 19th century.-- **The 'Bhavishya Maha Purana'**, writings have been seriously altered to insert Jesus, who had not appeared in the original --The Ahmaddis, a branch of Islam centered totally on the idea that Jesus survived crucifixion and died in Kashmir at the age of one hundred and twenty years have retained the most accurate and ancient accounts. They have relied on Muslim and Persian sources to trace the sojourn of Jesus, to whom they gave the name Yuza Asaph. The books, ***Christ in***

Kashmir by Aziz Kashmiri, and ***Jesus Lived in India*** by Holger Kersten, list documents and articles in support of the Ahmaddi view, but also reference questionable and fraudulent sources5.[143]

Not relevant to discussions in this book is a theory based on an Arthurian legend that Jesus also travelled to Britain instead of India during his lost years (Or, he may have journeyed to both during those 18 years). During the late 12th century, Joseph of Arimathea became connected with the Arthurian cycle, appearing in them as the first keeper of the Holy Grail.. This idea first appears in Robert de Boron's Joseph d'Arimathie, in which Joseph receives the Grail from an apparition of Jesus and sends it with his followers to Britain.

However, there is one more critical source for Jesus in India stories, and that is Church of the East book of 'Acts of Thomas' written at the end of the first century by Exonophon, who had met Jesus and was with St. Thomas in North India. We discussed this more extensively in the previous chapter about Magdalene. His book is considered either canonical or apocryphal by different Christian theologians. The short book describes Jesus' reception by eastern sages, his tuition in various schools around the world and his ministry to various groups of Nasserites, Essene, Persian and Tibetan schools. The story ends with the Palestinian ministry but states that, 'this is the beginning of the Acts of Yesu...' The rest has been lost.

St. Siphor also wrote about Jesus, by "Receiving his information from the "Holy Spirit"- suggesting 'channeled' information from a ghost or a spirit. However, the description 'Holy Spirit' is often applied to Jesus only *after* the crucifixion.

Reverend Yajn, of Church of the East in Srinagar, clarified this by explaining to me that 'Holy Spirit' referred to the physical Jesus *after* the crucifixion. Saul/Paul wrote of Jesus this way, and that is how it would have been understood by readers of the early centuries.

Church of the East 'Acts of Thomas' was written in Srinagar, location of Jesus' tomb, in the mid first century, soon after Siphor arrived in Srinagar and right after the death of Thomas. It was used by Churches as source book for the western Gospels until Christianity labeled them non-canonical and gnostic, and banned and burned them in the west.

There are several important reasons why we cannot ignore clues about Jesus in India, however scanty. First, information still trickles out from Sanskrit and Persian sources that supports at least some of these ideas, and research is still in its infancy, especially pending DNA tests. Next, we have the relics, documents and scrolls that were original to the tomb. They point directly to Yuz Asaph and Jesus as the same man. Jesus had become quiet, almost invisible after the crucifixion. He seemed to realize that his work and purpose in life would have to be accomplished in ways that did not draw attention to himself.

Whether he was prophet, prince, or king, he lived in very unassuming ways after the crucifixion. He valued privacy and secrecy, and accomplished his works from the background, behind the shadows as the leader of men like Peter, Bartholomew, Thomas and John, who were better known as the forefront of Christian history. We have the tomb in Kashmir with its very convincing supporting physical evidence, the ancient relics. This includes the accurate depiction of crucifixion wounds found in the tomb, and the Rod of Moses together with its supporting documentation.

Finally, reason number three to press on with this line of research is the family in Kashmir, presumed caretakers of the tomb since the first century, who claim this *is* Jesus and they *are* his direct descendants, and claim to have had the documents to prove it. One day DNA testing can ascertain how accurate their family traditions have been.

We will return to these ideas several more times throughout this book, but for now we'll examine the rich life and extraordinary education Jesus had if in fact journeyed to India for higher learning in his so-called 'missing' years.
For centuries, ever since man began reading and writing, there were minimal standards for education of any king, prince, warrior, explorer, or leader. Men like Alexander, Socrates, Plato and King Ashoka had educations of this caliber.

JULIAN MONASTARY

Near Taxila is the Julian Monastery. Sir John Marshall determined that the name of this monastery was originally associated with Julian of Nisibis[144]. Many teachers at Taxila were referred to as smritis (Sanskrit) or smerdis. The Hebrew translation means 'a teacher of the law books' and also 'one of Shem.' The Sanskrit word means 'repeating' or 'relating to history or traditions'.

Women were not excluded, but were educated right beside the men. Plates and painted stoneware recovered from these schools show bikini-clad women playing volleyball, throwing javelins, swimming, and riding horses. If they were from royal families, they were expected to be intelligent and competent managers of their own affairs. Women often had their own expense accounts from their inheritance. They had to retain managers, business agents, and even their own Chief Ministers. Cleopatra is an example of a well-educated woman. So, too, was Ishanadevi, the Kashmiri wife of King Jaloka. She governed Kashmir for him during his long absences.

A strong, healthy body, a sound diet, and rigorous exercise were paramount if a man was to lead a country, lead armies, and defend his home and family against invaders. The Buddha was noted for his well-developed physical and mental attributes.[145]

There were teachers for the martial arts, for horsemanship and animal husbandry, archery, courses for geology, gems and jewels, astronomy, painting, poetry, philosophy (existence of a soul, the nature of good and evil,

the moral values of man and god), the art of war and honor, economics, pharmacology, and courses on history and geography. Generally, a student entered Takshashila at the age of sixteen. The Vedas and the Eighteen Arts, which included skills such as archery, hunting, and elephant lore, were taught, in addition to its law school, medical school, and school of military science.[146] Students were required to contribute their own compositions in writing contests. These were called 'kavya-shastra-vinodas'. Eloquent speakers won awards and were held in high regard. Was Jesus a student here?
This quote convinces me that he was-

Matthew 13:54-5-

> 'And coming to his hometown, he began teaching them in their synagogue, so that they became astonished, and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom, and these miraculous powers? Is not he the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? Where then did this man get all these things?'

Brahmins had a strong presence at Taxila. They taught the four Vedas and the Eighteen Arts, essential courses required of every student. Knowledge of the *Book of Enoch* was evident in the education of these young men and women, for it was well known and often cited. Parallel *Enoch* sayings have turned up in one form or another around the world. They appear in the writings of Lao-tzu and Confucianism, in Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and in the Quran.

Professor Firdaullah Sehrai is a former director of Peshawar Museum and University of Peshawar, Archaeology & Fine Arts department head, and, at age 78, he still shows an enviable passion for, and knowledge of, his country's rich history. He said-[147]

> 'One of the greatest achievements of monasteries was to set the pattern for universities in this part of the world. There were spiritual teachers and regular teachers--when writing was established, monasteries became book repositories. The monks also studied agriculture and architecture. In fact, the chief monk was the chief architect and usually his wife would look after sick students or travelers--there were many princes who would live in the monastery, sometimes with servants in attendance, but poorer students would have to work and study--lectures were also open to non-students, although the lower castes (chandel) were not allowed to enter the monastery--the monastery contained a number of different units, including a court of many stupas, a main stupa, an assembly hall (where fortnightly meetings were held), a courtyard, and a meditation center.'

Some notable graduates of Taxila include the Sanskrit grammarian Panini, the political theorist Kautilya (who became Chief Advisor to the Mauryan Empire) the Ayurveda healer Charaka, the Greek philosopher Apollonius of

Tyana (circa 3 BCE to 97 CE) [he has been relentlessly compared with Jesus]. Their educations far exceeded what most of the world dares aspire to today.

By the time men like Socrates and Plato, Lao-tzu, Confucius, Siddharta Buddha and Jesus were on the world stage; their minds were honed like fine-tuned instruments. They were comfortable internalizing complex ideas.

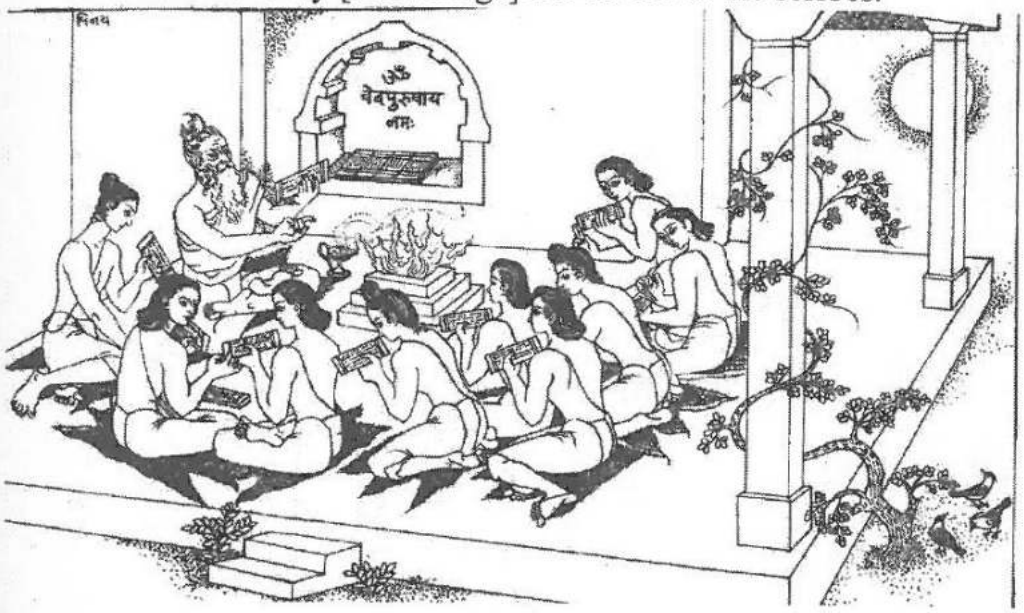
This is precisely how Jesus was able to communicate the most profound concepts into deceptively simplest proverbs.

Miguel de Cervantes said-

> 'Parables and proverbs are short sentences drawn from long experiences.'

Mark 1:22-27-

> 'And they were astounded at his teachings, for he taught them as one who had authority [knowledge] not as one of the scribes.'



Universities of Ancient India **by D.G. Apte (1923 edition) p.51- 'Education was free, even for poor students. At Taxila were located clusters of schools and classrooms managed and maintained by eminent teachers. They received donations from local rulers and people, and gifts from the students' parents. Hundreds of young princesses and princes were enrolled each year, arriving from the far corners of the world. They attended classes in politics, oratory, the sciences and astronomy, hunting, horsemanship, geography, archery, law, philosophy, humanities and the arts. Students here were over the age of 14. After completing their courses, they were expected to acquire practical knowledge and develop the faculty of personal observation. '**

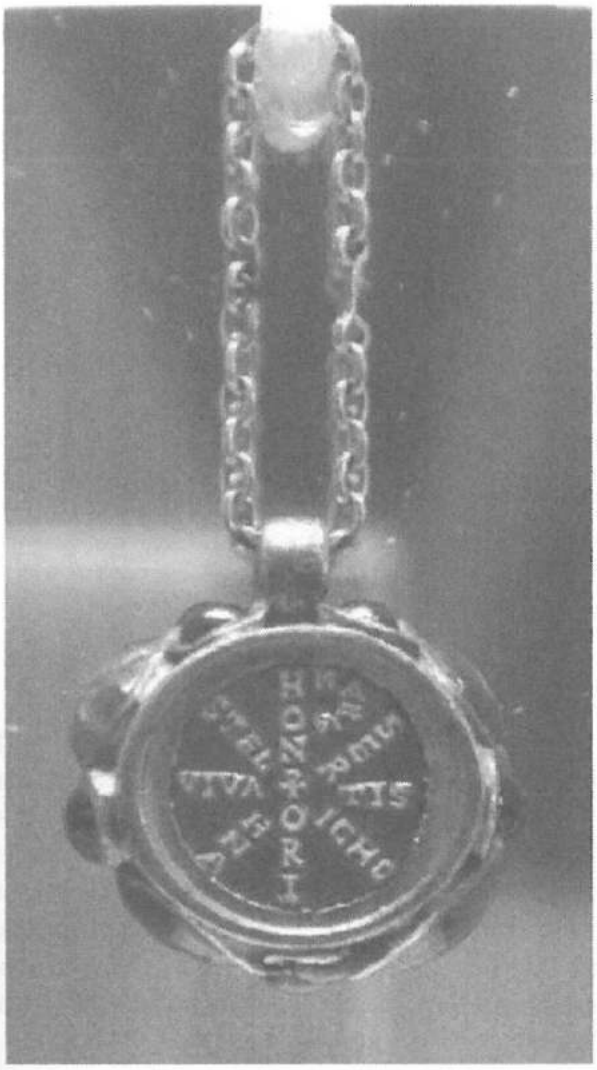
Soon after the death of Siddhartha, monks traveled far to spread his teachings. This resulted in changes in the original doctrine, and the need for a central authority to agree on the sayings and teachings of Buddha. The first Buddhist council was convened just three months after the Buddha's death.

Monks arrived from every corner of India carrying baskets filled with leaves on which were written the sayings of the Buddha recorded from regions he passed through. The second council met one hundred years later, the third was ordered one hundred fifty years after that by Emperor Ashoka in 250 BC. The Fourth Buddhist Council followed, of which there were actually two 'Fourth' councils, one was held in Sri Lanka, the other in Kashmir. King Kanishka, who had met both Thomas and Exonophon, called for 'the Fourth Buddhist Council' in Kashmir during Jesus' lifetime, and ancient manuscripts suggest that he asked Jesus (identified as King Pravarasena later in this book) to take charge of this important event. It was held at the ancient homestead of Aaron, a location that may have been inherited by Jesus through his mother. At the end of this two year conference, so minimal were the differences between the two religions that their boundaries have been blurred ever since.

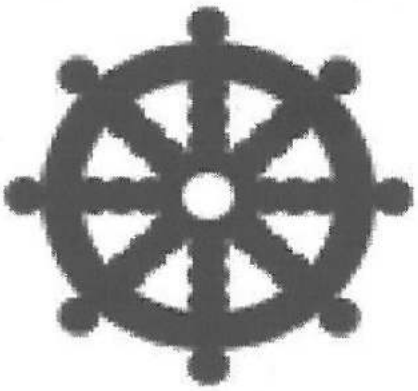


Tibet 'Ohm' Hebrew 'l'Chaim'

The letters resemble one another both in style and in meaning- as a sound vibration connecting all things in the universe- a beginning- life.

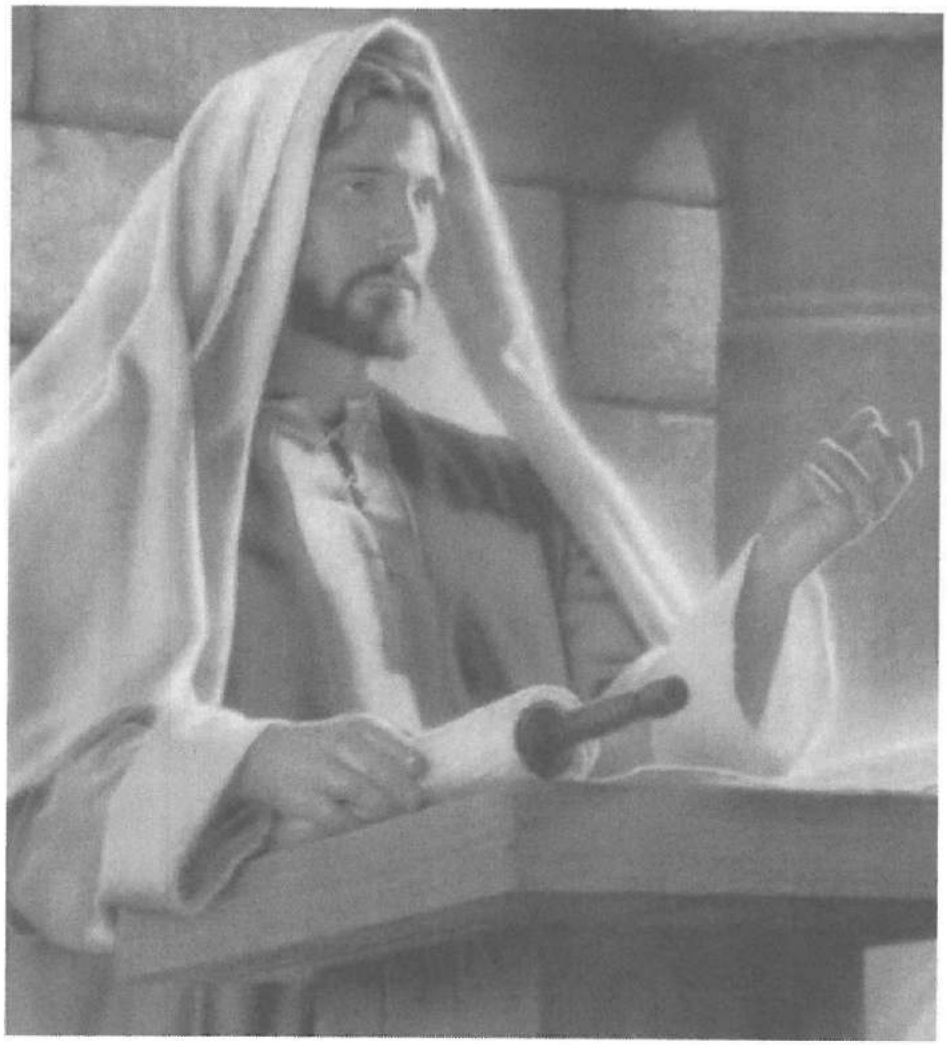


The Buddhist Wheel of Dhamma and the Christian Chi Rho pendant of Maria, wife of Honorius (398–407 CE). Louvre. The Buddhist symbol of the eight-spoked wheel is also found in Saint Peter's Plaza in Vatican.





Left-First Century Buddhist foot (Buddhapada in Sanskrit) from Taxila with Dharmacakra and Triratna symbols. Right- Carved foot with crucifixion wounds found inside Roza Bal tomb. The wounds match the Shroud of Turin placement of the crucifixion wounds. Buddha feet became a common symbol after the crucifixion of Jesus. Special shrines and places of worship for these footprints and feet appeared at Adam's Peak, Sri Lanka, in Japan, and throughout India. The mountain in Sri Lanka, Adam's Peak, is sacred to followers of four religions: Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and Muslims, who believe it is the footprint of Adam.



Mark 1:22-27-

'And they were astounded at his teachings, for he taught them as one who had authority [knowledge] not as one of the scribes.'



That's what it takes to be a hero, a little gem of innocence inside you that makes you want to believe there still exists a right and wrong, that decency will somehow triumph in the end. Lise Hand

Magdalene is a problem. After all her importance in the New Testament and in the life of Jesus, she suddenly disappears from all records. We do not know what her real name was, where she was born, if she had a husband or children, nor anything about her death, and somehow that does not seem fair to her or to us. We want more facts, not more fantasy about the sidelined 'bride' of Jesus, the sacred feminine or oarless boats used to escape with secret grail children.

Because there is so much written about Magdalene in the west, I need not go over those stories again. The purpose of this book is to introduce the reader to new ideas, to accounts written in the east about Jesus and Magdalene, things you may not be aware of, things very contrary to the popular pulp fiction.

The name Mary occurs numerous times in the New Testament. There are several people named Mary in the Gospels. There also are several unnamed women who seem to share characteristics with Mary Magdalene. At different times in history, Mary Magdalene has been confused or misidentified with almost every woman in the four Gospels, except the mother of Jesus. We can derive little from her name without more information about her.

The Magdalene of the Old Silk Road is different from the fantasies and myths surrounding her in the west. Understanding her background from India sheds new light on the Biblical Magdalene. We begin to understand that her relationship with Jesus was vastly different from western views.

Going strictly by the information in the Bible, we know that several women named Mary are mentioned, including Jesus' mother and Mary from Bethany (sister of Martha and Lazarus, the woman whom Jesus praised for learning from him in *Luke 10:38-42*). One of these "Marys" is referred to as "Magdalene," translated as "from the village of Magdala." However, variations of her name include Migdal (tower) and Magda, a place name. 'Magadha' also describes a caste of people from that region of India. Thus Magadha can refer to the geography, the town, or to the caste or tribe found there. [148] During Biblical times, Magadha (India) was huge, powerful, and similar in size and vibrancy to Taxila. Jesus and Thomas had been there, and it is the exact location where early eastern writings first placed Magdalene. We have no record, no mention of Jesus, Thomas nor any disciple or Biblical person *ever* going to Magdala in first century Israel. We do have records of them being in Magadha, India.

Biblically, Mary Magdalene is first mentioned as one of the women who accompanied Jesus on his preaching mission and helped to support him financially (*Luke 8:1-3*). Luke adds that seven demons had been cast out of her, presumably by Jesus. (*Luke 8:2)* During the Middle Ages she was called *apostola apostolorum*, which can be translated in two ways: "apostle TO the

apostles," and "apostle OF the apostles." An apostle (apostolos) is defined by Liddell and Scott in 'A Greek-English Lexicon' as a messenger, ambassador or envoy. An apostle is a messenger. A disciple is a student. The terms are often used interchangeably-someone could be an apostle and a disciple, a female or a male. Jesus made no distinctions between them.

The next time we read about Mary Magdalene she is among the women who observed the crucifixion of Jesus (*Mark 15:40*). On Easter morning, she and several female companions go to the tomb of Jesus and find it empty. Magdalene, according to *John 20*, encounters Jesus near the tomb, and then goes to announce his resurrection to the other disciples (*John 20:1-18*).

This is all we know about Mary Magdalene from the biblical gospels. She became associated with the prostitute who bathed and anointed Jesus' feet (*Luke 7:36-50*) although there is nothing in Scripture that makes this connection. There has been historical precedence for her association with prostitution. By eastern accounts, Magdalene had been a child prostitute, a temple devadasi destined to serve the priests. However, a child should be regarded as blameless for the actions of adults who forced her into this position. The 'seven demons' cast from Magdalene may have had something to do with leaving the old life of sexual servitude to the priests, and beginning anew.

There is nothing whatsoever in neither biblical material, nor in eastern literature to suggest that Magdalene was Jesus' wife, or, as some have suggested, that he had a sexual relationship with her outside of marriage. If Jesus and Magdalene had been married, there was no need to mention her as a consort or companion; if they were married, then we should expect that he would also have entrusted her into the care of the Beloved Disciple he spoke to from the cross. The absence of this action strongly suggests that Jesus and Mary were not married, nor was she a concubine, or a pregnant mistress. Further, the disciple John was probably not Jesus' son, or the duties of caring for the women and arranging burial would have been his, or at the very least shared with Joseph of Arimathea. Nothing is written to suggest that a son of Jesus was present any time during the crucifixion events. Had a son existed, he may have been too young to become the head of the family. Assuming that Jesus was between 30 and 40 years old at the crucifixion, his son could have been between 15 and 22 years old.

The Oxyrhynchus Gospels are two fragmentary manuscripts written in Greek (British Library accession numbers 840 and 1224), discovered among the rich finds of discarded papyri at Oxyrhynchus in Egypt. Oxyrhynchus 1224 consists of two small papyrus fragments from the late 3rd or early 4th century. It contains six passages, each about a sentence. Two of the longer ones are parallel to *Mark 2:17* and *Luke 9:50*, but the differences in phrasing show they are textually independent of the Gospels. A precise date for composition is unknown; 50 C.E. is possible though a date of around 150 C.E. is more widely accepted by scholars. Authors Fida Hassnain and Aziz

Kashmiri have both stated that in #1224 is mention of a marriage of Jesus. This was not to Magdalene. Instead, this may be the girl who died young after bearing Jesus at least one son. This is mentioned in writings outside the Bible.

Magdalene helped to support Jesus financially. (*Luke 8:1-3*). If this is true, and if you still believe that Magdalene and Jesus were married, then it implies that he was unemployed, penniless and sent his concubine-companion-betrothed-or wife out to work and support him. That's not a very good image, and highly improbable for a 1st century Jewish rabbi who some suggest also had skills as a carpenter.

The Beloved Disciple *may have been* Magdalene. Jesus was always imploring Magdalene to be more like a man, stronger and more independent. The other most probable candidate would be a son of Jesus, but this never becomes apparent in the Gospels. If a son were present at the crucifixion, he would have taken center stage in accordance with Hebrew tradition. These duties would not be passed solely to Joseph of Arimathea.

The conversations of other apostles also clearly suggest their relationship was not as husband and wife. Even Jesus kissing Magdalene would have gone unnoted had they been a married or intimate couple. Because nothing in the New Testament suggests that Jesus and Mary were married, those who advocate this position claim to rely on the evidence of non-canonical gospels. Do these extra-biblical writings reveal a secret marriage between Jesus and Mary? In fact, they do not.

Gospel of Thomas, 114-

> "I myself shall lead her in order to make her male, so that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every woman who will make herself male will enter the kingdom of heaven."

"Behold thy son" may have been the highest compliment he could give her.

Magdalene overcame far greater difficulties, and rose to far greater heights than she has been given credit for. All this was achieved without marrying Jesus. Magdalene accompanied Jesus on his preaching mission and helped to support him financially (*Luke 8:1-3*). She had grown and matured from the Magdalene in India, a child destined for the life of temple prostitution. Her forced temple prostitution as a mere child haunted her into adulthood, but was never held against her for it was not done of her own free will. Jesus enabled her to mature into a responsible and respectable woman, an apostle, a teacher and a trusted leader. He was her teacher, her rabbi, she was his exemplary student. She was never his wife.

Like most westerners, I never knew this Magdalene existed. I met this Magdalene on the Old Silk Road after living in Kashmir and beginning correspondence with Reverend Yajin of Church of the East.[149] I wanted to know more about his church because it had been in Kashmir since 45 AD, and survived for 2,000 years, until recent terrorism destroyed it.

Church of the East and 'Sacred Sensuality' are not using the same liturgy followed by the Chaldean (Assyrian-Nestorian) Church of the East. All Christian churches in India acted as one and followed the same liturgy until arrival of the Portuguese in the 16th and 17th centuries. They insisted on using the Latin (Catholic) liturgy in India, causing the splinters and divisions among the India churches that exists to this day. Thus, Church of the East, by rejecting the Latin liturgy, was eventually cut off from western Christianity and took a different road of development.

Church of the East, Kashmir, was founded in 45 AD by Saint Thomas, the same year that he and Jesus visited Gondopharnes, attended the wedding of Megavahana, and visited the temple of Solomon. This was but one of at least seventeen churches begun by Thomas in India.[150] Church of the East in Kashmir was the guardian and inheritor of many of the relics of Jesus and Thomas, priceless items that the original church carried out of Kashmir lest terrorists or fundamentalists destroy them. I have lost the trail of these relics. One day, perhaps, they will be recovered again. I exchanged private emails with Church of the East patriarchs for several months trying to verify *'The Acts of Yesu'* that so graphically describe the life of the young prostitute Magdalene. How reliable were these sources? But the elders have moved to other countries, have died, or grown very old. The Church as it was in Kashmir is no more.

ACTS OF YESU THE SAVIOR

These were received from the Holy Spirit[151], recorded toward the end of the first century by St. Siphor, assistant under Exonophon, ordained by St. Thomas in North India. This short book describes the Savior's reception by eastern sages, his tuition in various schools around the world and his ministry to various groups of Nasserites, Essene, Persian and Tibetan schools. The story ends with the Palestinian ministry but states that, 'this is the *beginning* of the acts of Yesu...'

The first book about Jesus was written in his lifetime, and was used by Churches as source book for the western Gospels--until Christianity banned and burned this in the West.

Reverend Yajin insisted that the 'Holy Spirit' was the commonly accepted description of Jesus in the flesh *after* the crucifixion, someone whom Exonophon., the original source, had known personally.

Jesus was still living at the time and would have been aware if any falsehoods were written about himself or Magdalene.

> 'St Thomas was not alone in India. Yesu our Lord was always with him and the devotees. Its purpose is to give readers written illustrations of some incidents and issues in the founding of the Church...Books such as *Acts of Thomas* shed some light on the historical questions.'[152]

The author of *Acts of Thomas* was Exonophon, who most probably also wrote the first *Acts of Yesu* (from which St. Siphor copied and edited later). Exonophon relied on information gathered from years of personal contact with both Jesus and Thomas. He had personally served Thomas daily for a number of years as an accolade. Just to be clear, historically there are two men named Exonophon, and both were Greek. The other was a well-known Greek historian who lived 430 – 354 BC- Church of the East [Canada]--

> 'The *Acts of Thomas* was first published in Srinagar, India, before the death of the author, Exonophon. He was well educated in letters and was fluent in the two international languages, Greek (probably his native language) and Aramaic. He worked closely with St. Thomas for many years and set up Church of the East's library and publishing facility in Srinagar. Exonophon was ordained as Teacher in charge of the area that included (modern) Kashmir, Pakistan, and North India. This was the most important diocese of Church of the East at the time. As Teacher, Exonophon served on the Senior Council seated in Srinagar, which was attended by the Suren (Sarman Brotherhood is discussed elsewhere in this book) and later Kushan kings – not to mention other seers and sages from Persia, China and India.
>
> Besides the fact that he was a superb teacher, Exonophon had excellent literary and language skills and was well suited for the task of publisher and librarian. The quality of the work in *Acts of Thomas* is beyond compare for the time and setting – it is nothing less than a literary masterpiece.'

We know that Exonophon was born 20 CE in Takshashila (Taxila), student of letters, wrote *Acts of Thomas* -first publishing it in chapters from 45 CE onward and by 80 CE (the year St. Siphor died- Jesus died circa 100 AD, also in Kashmir) the first Eastern Bible canon was announced and it included *Aof T.*

Exonophon was fluent in Greek and Aramaic and additionally he mastered Sanskrit, Bactrian, and the Karoshti and Brahmi scripts. *Aof T* was completed in 65 or 66 CE, shortly after Siphor arrived in Srinagar.

The first publication of the book was in Karoshti but we know of Greek and Aramaic versions that circulated in the West.

The *Acts of Yesu* began with writings from Exonophon, then copied from first and second century manuscripts in several languages including Karoshti, Aramaic, and Greek. In spite of efforts to suppress *Acts of Yesu*, it was one of the most treasured books of the Syrian and Nazorean Christians. Today it is shunned, ridiculed, cast aside, and condemned by the word 'gnostic.'

Cynthia Bourgeault-

> 'As a spiritual tradition, we are heirs to a sixteen-hundred year legacy of knee-jerk and phobic reactions to texts that have been demonized as "gnostic." But unless we get over these attitudes, we are never going to be able to move beyond first base in healing Christianity's deeply repressed and wounded feminine.'

Exonophon was 18 years old when he met Yesu in 38 CE (*Aof T* 3:16ff). Exonophon left his body somewhere between the age of seventy and seventy three –we don't know the year, except that "the great and enlightened King Kanishka buried Teacher Exonophon with great honors in the same tomb used for blessed Teacher Siphor.

Kanishka came to power in 78 CE, Exonophon was about 68 years old, and still alive in 80 CE, but in 83 CE, his passing is lamented by a prosaic lover (the "comely girl" of *Aof T 3:16ff*). Takshashila (Taxila) was Exonophon's earlier home.

The *Acts of Yesu* begins with the magi and the magic star, guiding them to Jesus. The search for a reincarnation of the next enlightened one, the next Buddha, would have entailed very different criteria. With the introduction of a strange light and an angel-guide for magi in the story, this creates a different situation, one similar to the Old Testament, when unnatural lights led Moses and the nation of Israel on their 40-year journey. We can connect the events of Jesus' birth to other Biblical events, but not to Buddhist traditions.

Jesus was placed under the guardianship of the Brotherhood and educated under their guidance. In Kashmir, he visited his family and the sister he never met. This could be a child of Mother Mary, but in the old use of 'sister' or 'brother', this could be cousins, friends, foster children, et cetera.

Jesus, when in his late 20's, arrived at a temple to study with Brahmins. There he was introduced to Magdalene, whom he described as a mere child. Girls are brought to the temple as young as 4-5 years old and compelled to provide for the sexual needs of priests and guests. According to the customs of the times, Magdalene may have been ages 9 or 10 to 13 years old when she met Jesus. Had she been younger, he probably could not have taken her from the temple. Had she been older, she would have been described as 'a young woman', not a child. *Acts of Yesu* gives us details about the relationship between Yesu and Magdalene. After they met, he became angry with the priests and their treatment of this child. He went against their wishes and ordained Magdalene as a disciple. Jesus had a small gathering of devotees that included Magdalene. In the towns and cities they passed through, they served the disadvantaged, the sick, the abused, the orphans, building them shelters, teaching them skills to become self-reliant, giving them a sense of worth and of belonging. This was the true beginning of Christianity.

Go to any troubled, war-torn Third World country to this day and one can still find Christian missionaries emulating Christ's example. It is not Buddhists, Hindus, nor Muslims in these dangerous circumstances, but Christian missionaries bravely helping the disadvantaged with food, shelter, medicines, schools and education for the children. Some of the brightest and best leaders and well-educated men and women of Third World countries like Pakistan and many African nations attended schools run by Catholic nuns and Christian missionaries (a word sometimes associated with overzealous 'reformers'.) For example, former President-General of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf (b. 1943) was educated at Saint Patrick's School in Karachi. Benazir Bhutto (1953-2007) was the daughter of Pakistan's former Prime Minister. She was born in Karachi, Pakistan, and attended the Lady Jennings Nursery School and Convent of Jesus and Mary in Karachi. After two years at the Rawalpindi Presentation Convent, she attended the Jesus and Mary Convent at Murree. She passed her O-level examinations at the age of 15, and then went to the United States for higher education. She returned to Pakistan and became Prime Minister, the first (and only) female to lead a Muslim country. Murree, Pakistan is location of the grave of Mother Mary that we will visit later in this book. In 2009, this location was bombed by terrorists. The bombings and killings of teachers and students at these schools in Pakistan have escalated in recent years. There are no Christians left in Afghanistan. By 2010, all were killed or driven out. The country's new laws are intolerant of any religion but Islam. Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) was a highly educated man. His first school was the Wesleyan mission school in South Africa. They inspired a deep love of learning in Mandela. Many village schools in India and Africa are outdoors and have no chairs or books. Children learn their math and spelling by drawing in the sand with sticks.

By the time that King Ashoka made Buddhism the State religion, Buddhist ashrams, schools, farms, and orphanages as far away as Greece and the Roman world were well established.

Jesus was surely inspired by Buddhism, but also by Mother Mary and a Jewish fraternity known as 'The Circle of Mothers.' This was a group of women gathering to help each other, and to help orphans and widows. The concept is still a part of Jewish life today. 'Circles of Mothers' help raise Jewish children in non-Jewish settings, and extend help in many ways in the community. Was the 'Order of Magdalene' [153] based on the concept of 'Circle of Mothers'? Probably.

Through the guidance of Jesus, Magdalene gained respect, credibility, and a means to support herself and be independent. She was immature and awkward at times, clinging to Jesus like a child. At first she lacked confidence, she cried when she lost the trail of Jesus. He sometimes left her to her work and got several days ahead of her before she caught up to him, crying, worried, upset that she might not find him again. Seeing her as a timid,

frightened young girl, one can read an entirely different meaning into the words of Jesus: Simon Peter; "Let Mary leave us, for women are not worthy of life." Jesus' reply (in the Nag Hammadi Library -The Gospel of Thomas)-

> 'I myself shall lead her in order to make her male, so that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every woman who will make herself male (strong, equal, independent) will enter the kingdom of heaven.'

Magdalene was tagging along, insecure, childish, immature, timid, and in tears, totally dependent upon Jesus for everything. Her sheltered life in the temple tending only to the needs and whims of men had not prepared her for life outside temple walls. When speaking from the cross, Jesus said, 'Behold thy son..." He may have been speaking to Magdalene who had finally left childhood and was entering life as a competent, strong, independent, mature young woman.

There were almost 300 men and women of all ages in India who were ordained by Jesus at this time of his first ministry. They raised funds for his ministry. Magdalene was among those who helped to support him financially. (*Luke 8:1-3*). It is no different for Hebrew rabbis today. In fact they continue to earn twice the average salary of Christian clerics[154]. In the apocryphal 'Pistis Sophia', Christ shows great respect for the opinions of women, especially Mary his mother, Mary Magdalene, Martha and Salome.

The women who discoursed at great length amongst the male disciples included:

Mary Magdalene
Mary, the mother of Jesus
Mary Salome
Miriamne, sister of Phillip
Martha, sister of Lazarus
Arsinoe
Joanna (or possibly Suzanna)

The following are condensed from *'Acts of Yesu'*. Church of the East, Canada has the original documents from the 1st Century. I am in their debt for their kind and generous help providing the above information and the following summations. The full texts are available on their web site...church-of-the-east.org.

NATIVITY AND EARLY YEARS

1--- The acts of Yesu cannot be recorded in one book and cannot be known by one man because Yesu lived between different men at different times and the Savior travelled throughout the nations and spoke the tongues of many and the acts of Yesu continues forever amongst all people.

Nothing in all the universes can contain all the acts of Yesu but these are what my insufficient soul was able to record from what God the Mother gave me when Yesu visited us in India.

2--- During the Feast of Light, the great announcement was made to the leaders of the White Brothers [Sarmoung Brotherhood] of Kashmir. They sent for those in Partia and India to come and find the child to be taken to safety and to school. For more than nine months, the wise ones were meeting in places to determine the place and time. The Evil powers held their councils to launch their wars on the child from God.

3--- The angel of Light guided the holy ones to the child. Fifteen holy ones were purified in ceremonies and followed the angel through the valleys and plains. Aghad was the caravan leader. [Aghad-Sanskrit title meaning vast or deep]

6--- They dreamed about the boy child running naked through the valleys and hills of many lands in merriment, but the mother was resigned to crying all the time.

7--- Yusuf and his wife and child were renting a space to sleep in the carved out stable of the Inn in the village called Bread House.

8--- Yusuf was working as a carpenter for daily wages and the child Mari working as a servant in the Inn [other sources indicated they were robbed on the way to Egypt, after the visit by the magi. This is discussed later in this book]. Then it came to pass that the Angel of Light came to pay homage to the child, and told the leaders to secretly move the child to the Egyptian schools of the White Brothers, who would go out to different parts of the world to prepare for his tuition and his teaching.

9--- All the devotees were divided into small groups and all left together in different directions on one day and no one ever returned to that ashrama. This was the cover of secrecy that the elders used, that many small groups moved in many directions at once, to conceal the destination of the holy child.

10--- In Egypt Yesu received the education of reading and writing...the seventh year of Yesu, he was moved with his mother to the Greek schools in Alexandria... the 11th year he was moved with his mother to the Hebrew schools of Siphora in Galilee... Yusuf returned to Galilee...and went ahead to prepare a place in the city of Ekbata where Yesu was taken...

11--- All this time devotees from Kashmir and India prepared for the education and keep of the family of Yesu.

IN INDIA

12--- When Yesu was fourteen he took the caravan to the plains of Dash't [Dashtan in north Afghanistan is mountainous-Dashtan in Iran, bordering Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Caspian Sea, is a lush beautiful plain and location of many magi palaces] and he continued his schooling and his

ministry began.[This is when he met Magdalene and angered the Brahmin priests].

13--- In the Sistia [?] it came to pass that the high priest of the temple planned to poison the Savior. The priests crafted to tell Yesu the drinking of the poison was the test for mastery of the tradition; that Yesu may not leave before the test. This they said because they knew that no man can stand alive after taking one drop of that poison between his lips and so they planned to do away with Yesu; also, to disprove him and disgrace his [good] reputation.

14---Yesu agreed to the test on his final day before departing to India, although he knew their real and evil intentions.

15--- Yesu prepared in meditation and training. He was wearing the white robe of the master when he came before the priests.

16---Silence fell upon the crowds and the priests came to him and scolded him for wearing the white robes, but Yesu stood firm.

20--- He then drank the whole of the cup [of poison] and did not die; {Author's note: There is a parallel story about Lord Krishna, who drank poison to save the world, and thereafter he is always depicted with bluish-tinged skin, an after-effect of the poison]

KASHMIR, JAMMU, TIBET

21-22--- The Savior then left the Brahmins, and many sick people met him on the way to be healed, as the word of his travels were going around. On the way to Kashmir, he entered by the valley road and said to the gatekeeper, 'I am returning home after many years to visit my family and to meet my younger sister whom I know not' [sister can be anyone from the same village or someone sharing the same religious beliefs. This custom of calling everyone sister or brother is still followed in much of Central Asia today, especially in Pakistan and Afghanistan].

{This suggests that Joseph and Mother Mary were in Kashmir during the entire time that Jesus was in India. There is a grave for Joseph on land located on the Pakistan side of the border. A documentary film was made about this grave by PTV, but I was unable to locate it. Later in this book, we will examine the evidence that Joseph was serving as Chief Minister in Kashmir}.

34--- Yesu went to the schools of the northern areas [Tibet-Ladakh] when he was twenty-four years and mastered the Way. {The written record of this may be what Nicholas Notovitch. claims to have seen when he visited the Hemis Monastery, see below].

35--- Yesu blessed the priest saying, 'Brother and father, you are doing the will of the heavenly Father, guided by our Mother You are doing what I am learning to do, and not one of us is greater than the other because only One is great and that is God.

There has been ongoing controversy about Jesus visiting Tibet, especially since Nicolas Notovitch published his book in 1894, *The Unknown Life of*

Christ. Tibet is near Kashmir. Notovitch was a Russian doctor who journeyed extensively throughout Afghanistan, India, and Tibet. He was accused of creating a hoax about Jesus in India and Hemis Monastery, and was ridiculed as an imposter. In his defense, he encouraged a scientific expedition to prove the original Tibetan documents existed. Since then, many have tried but no one has verified the documents that monks claim are now either hidden or stolen. What scrolls have been shown to visitors since then have never been photographed or translated in any verifiable way. Notovitch also claimed that he took this information to the Vatican., and was advised that the Vatican Library had sixty-three manuscripts from India, China, Egypt, and Arabia-all giving information about the life of Jesus after crucifixion. The Vatican has never allowed anyone to view these documents, if they exist at all.

MAGDALENE THE CHILD

37--- At that time prostitutes were brought in to the ashrama to sleep in the beds of the monks as the tradition was[155]. For many months, the monks disrobe and sleep naked by them without any issue before gaining success in self-control. The child ['child' as defined by temple custom is 5 to 12 year olds] brought in for Yesu was called Magdalene, from an important family in the province where the Buddha was born in Magadha. [Verification that Magdalene was from Magadha]

38--- When brought in to Yesu she was pleading with him saying, 'Holy Teacher, please send me away from you I entreat you.... all good I touch turns to naught by.... [my lust]

39--- I fear where I may end lest you save me in this way (sexual passion). If you will not, sir, I beg you to take the life from me and let me die without this stain which will be unbearable.'

40--- The child told Yesu how she fell in lust with a girl from her town and how they were discovered in sexual embrace, and they were hauled before the town elders. Her parents were disgraced, sold her to a brothel owner, and told him to send her far away. The other girl, from a poor house, was sent to work in the gold mines where she will surely die. That was how Magdalene came to be a [temple] prostitute. Her age when she was compelled to be a devadasi is unknown, but the Brahmin priests only accepted very young virgins, as young as 5 or 6 years old.

YESU TEACHES MARI

41---Yesu took pity on the young girl, and, following the rules of the Brahmins, she had to undress and sit on his bed. Yesu taught her the secret art of sacred sensuality; of using the body and the senses to engender holy energy to the purpose of purification and control over the senses and bodily impulses. Three months the test endured and every night, unknown to the priests, Yesu

was teaching Magdalene all the secrets about healing and about mystical union with the Energies of God.

42---Magdalene advanced quickly because she was a lover of God and she learned to control her mind. She conquered the lust that ran wild within her and tamed it and gained control over her soul.

Yesu cleansed her and banished the demons from her, seven in number, and the Savior taught Magdalene Greek and Aramaic, and she learned to read.

43---Magdalene learned by night, but for according to monk's rule the prostitute was made to be naked every night while, sharing the mat. Every morning, the master teacher came in and found Yesu and Magdalene in holy meditation.

EXHORTATION TO LEAVE

44---Jesus said to the priests-every child you minister to is a child of God and is valued even higher than angels.' And Yesu made all the teachers nervous.

MARI PRESENTED TO THE ELDERS

45---When Yesu's time of learning here was fulfilled, he presented Mari to the elders and asked that she be tested along with the men. Yesu caused much dissension for never has a woman been to school for holy initiation.

The priests said, 'Teacher from the West. We have heard about you and the wrath you spew; how you disrupt every school; and even rumors of how you slew fourteen priests in Parthia. Now we see that you are set on destroying us. We treated you well and we gave you our finest, therefore we beg. What wrong have we committed against you? How may we correct our ways and find favor with you? Tell us. But this plan you wrought with the woman will bring this holiness to tragedy and the people of these towns will have a temple no more. Be merciful; allow us an opportunity to make amends where we wronged you.'

46--- But Yesu said, 'Truly I tell you. Our Mother in Heaven knows and our Father in Heaven watches us here today - there will be no rest in Paradise unless we meet this thing in the face. I come to do only what I am sent to do, I have no plans, for all plans are of my Father. I wrought no wisdom of my own for I have no such. All Wisdom is by my Mother. I serve with dispassion and know not the purpose of my Father in heaven. My task is made easy for I am told what to do at every time. Let us not run from the face of God, come with me and walk through the purifying fire.'

49---Yesu stood up and addressed the congregation.... 'Sisters and brothers, fathers and mothers, children of God – you will not allow this female child into the priesthood.... yet you allow this child to be used by the demons of your city to bring you pleasure in depravity. How are you to invite this child of God into the hell you make here, but you are weary to invite her into the heaven you make. All the feats of magic which you taught these devotees to

do, she can do. All the exercises of control over natural energies she can do. Mari, a child of this city is now in possession of all your secrets… Surely it is better for a prostitute to advance to Heaven and be saved than for more monks and citizens to descend to hell because of her?

50--- Why are you wary, because you men and women made her a prostitute when you bought her for your lust, or because God made her a woman? Surely most of this town has seen this child not only naked but worse….I urge you before God, allow this girl whom I trained to be a monk, to be honored by initiation.'

51---At this, the women and the elders of the city stood up and urged the priests to allow Mari to be tested. A great riot resulted in the temple and those who think of women as less than men left to take the riot to the street.

Other men marched to the brothels and paid the price of many slaves to be freed. Yesu took Mari and they left that city.

52--- Yesu walked with Mari but stopped by a river to rest on the way down the valley. Women were washing there. Mari went down to the women and spoke with them, and told them everything that happened; and how Yesu taught her to read the Scriptures; and the women became exited and Mari recited verses from the Scriptures and told them what they meant. Mari brought the women up to speak with Yesu and they asked him many questions about birth and marriage and transmigration and love and children and duty.

53--- When they had finished Yesu was leaving to wander and told Mari to stay with the women two more days and meet again with him in Kashmir on the fourth day and Mari remained with the women.

THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

54---Yesu spent the night alone with God in the sanctuary of the priests of the holy mountain (Hari Parbat). He told the priests that he was wandering south and then west through Parthia[156] and the priests gave him three horns full of holy leaven and prepared Soma to minister to the people of those lands; because they knew Yesu was a priest of the Melchizedek and he was going to follow the route of Abraham of old.

MARI GETS LOST

55--- When the time came Mari was looking for Yesu but it was the time of the Feast of Shiva[157] and she could not see him anywhere. By the afternoon, she became tired and rested by the water fountain when a child came to her saying that the one who she seeks is in the temple of Kali. Mari rushed over there to find Yesu but she could not, for the place was filled with pilgrims and she went from one room to the other asking anyone if they had not seen the young bearded teacher from Parthia. Then, in the rush of the crowd she asked a blind man, not knowing of his blindness, if he had seen the teacher and he answered her, 'Child, you are so busy searching that you do not stop to look.

The one you are seeking is at the Temple of All Bodhisattvas and Buddha at the end of the road.' And Mari ran down the road to the shrine to meet Yesu, fearing that he would depart from the city if she did not find him.

56--- Mari began to cry and sat at the feet (of the statue); she was angry and fearful because she thought the owner of her might try to reclaim her if she had no protection from the master.

57--- 'Where are you Master,' she cried out....then she found Yesu busy talking with the Buddhist elders.

MARI ASHAMED

58---Mari said, 'I am ashamed Master.' But Yesu said, 'Silly child, when you allow seven demons to ruin your soul and drag you naked in unbridled passion then you do not think yourself ashamed. Now you stumble over a holy exercise and you feel yourself ashamed. Shame is the pitiful luxury of those who think highly of themselves. Humility is a fire using shame for kindle.'

59--- Lord Yesu and Mari stayed with the begging children and taught them how to find food and to make clothing and huts for wintertime.

And Mari told them stories from the Scriptures about the great flood and Manu, and Adman and Joppa and the Jivatman, while Yesu healed their sores and afflictions.

60--- When the morning came it was the day of the festival and two monks came by and saw Yesu living with the children and they spoke together saying; this city will be cursed if it leaves a great teacher and healer to live like an animal, and they went up to him saying, 'Sir, is there anything we can do to help you get a better place to sleep, and a plate of food to eat?'

66--- Yesu and Mari left the city to travel down to where the Great West road to Parthia was [The Old Silk Route], and on the way they were cared for the people of every town where they were received hospitably. Yesu, through the faith of the people, wrought miracles of healing and wrought healings of their children. And many would follow them from town to town but Yesu asked them to remain behind because where he was going none could follow.

67--- And many times he told Mari to stay behind and minister to the women and he promised that he would return afterward but Mari followed Yesu even two days behind and she remained walking in his footsteps, saying, 'My Lord; my life, my soul, my spirit, my body and my death all follow you; for wherever you walk the road leads to Heaven, and all of me will follow you.'

68--- When Yesu was 27 years, he was instructed by the holy ones to enter the gates of the Nazoreans at Edes-Ra'y. When he entered, the whole assembly was waiting for him, as it was so ordained many years ago by the elders that on this day the Savior will enter into the mysteries of the Nazoreans.[158]

MARI ANGERS THE ELDERS

76---During this time Mari was ministering to the women of the Nazoreans and telling them how Yesu liberated her and the other women of the communities in India and Parthia. The Magdalene taught the women and children those things Yesu had taught her to teach.

77---After a while some of the older women came to the elder Zosimar and laid a charge against Mari that she was teaching the women and children a strange doctrine telling them to abandon their traditional roles and walk like men the mystical Way. These charges angered the brothers and they immediately sent for Mari and told her to cease teaching her subversive doctrines and to refrain from speaking with their women and children. Mari listened to all the charges and agreed to having taught those doctrines, and when the elders had finished instructing her and reminding her that she was a guest and should conduct herself accordingly; also charging that she was not a good handmaiden for her Master since not even once has she done anything to make Yesu more comfortable.

THE MAGDALENES

86---Yesu asked Mari to remain behind and wait on him to return from the land of his birth because he knew that the ministry there would be different and difficult to accomplish, and he was uncertain and anxious about his task.

87---And Mari was weeping and pleaded with Yesu not to take her ministry from her.... 'Now you want to remove my ministry from me; the only proper thing I ever did in my life, and the only passion I have....' And she begged Yesu to reconsider.

88---"Follow me but not closely for the world is not yet ready to receive us without adversity. Where I must go, you cannot but your ministry.... must ever remain in assistance to humanity.'[Her 'ministry, realistically, was probably to feed and clothe and educate orphan children and street beggars younger than herself.]

89---'My sister Magdalene, follow behind me and minister to whom the Spirit will lead you. Teach them, minister to them, and we will be one (as in one team with a common goal)."

92---And Mari asked, Lord, but where will I get the strength to teach so many?' And Yesu said, 'Be passionate. Go now, your time has come.'

94---Mari followed the Lord through the towns to the community of the devout by the river Jordan, in the land of Palestine; and she dined with the Lord's mother, brothers, and sisters and healed Yudah from a lame leg of doubt.

97---The Lord was silent, keeping company with the deities and the guides. When the baptism of John the Nazorean came to be done.... the Lord was lifted on high and the gates of heaven opened (ascension).

101---Mari with more than 300 women who became virgins [celibate-nuns] and were liberated from their afflictions (poverty-slavery-sex for favors,

battered wives) also followed. And they followed behind the Lord and cared for him greatly. And the Magdalenes taught of healings, and they kept pure and secret the mystical teachings and it was taken to many parts of the world.
103---And the Mother of all and the Father of all spoke to the Lord. Yesu prepared for seven days and went up to give himself up to the evil ones to hang him up.... unto the death of the body.... and he left the body to die and he gained union with God as the beloved son.
104--- And the universes shook in their foundations as this violence took place; and he was alone in that hour of testing; and the darkness and the struggle almost conquered him to expire but for the image of Mari sitting at his feet.
105--- The Lord brought him back to us again.... to continue to serve... he removed that dead body from its grave and swaddling clothes and made it alive again.... And the Lord travelled the lands of his former ministries, appearing whenever he was needed; and he brought with him a great army of angels to light the Way.
106--- And the Lord appeared first to Mari then to his mother and the devotees (apostles). He sent the apostles to minister in different lands and appeared with them. And the Lord ministered to the congregations of Yudah in Kushan, and James in Egypt and *Mari in Alexandria and Ethiopi*, Peter in Armenia and Syria, Mathew in Parthia and Yudah (Judah), when he became the Thoma in India for many years.
107--- And even unto me, Siphor, he blessed me for appearing in Kashmir when I was scarcely a priest; and we heard of many other places he went, too numerous to write about.
108--- This is an account of the beginning of the *Acts of Yesu*. [As Reverend Yajin noted, this is the *beginning*...more was to follow].

MAGDALENE IN FRANCE

According to *the Acts of Yesu*, Magdalene never went to France or Britain in an oarless boat. Jesus sent her to Alexandria, Egypt, then on to Ethiopia, a pleasant journey along the Red Sea coastline. This may explain why she is sometimes said to be 'from' Ethiopia.

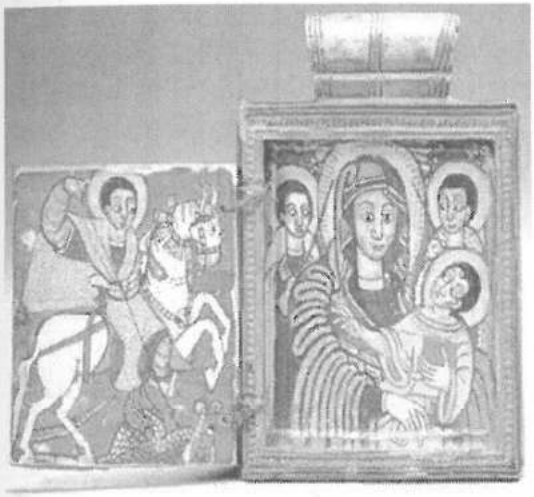
Acts of Yesu # 106-

> 'And the Lord appeared first to Mari then to his mother and the devotees (apostles). He sent the apostles to minister in different lands and appeared with them. And the Lord ministered to the congregations of Yuda (Juda) in Kushan (India), James in Egypt, and Mari in Alexandria and Ethiopia.'

The story of the oarless boat may be based on an incident that happened to Mother Mary years before. She was on a boat with the apostle John when the boat had difficulties navigating, which indicates a broken rudder. They reached the shores of Mount Athos and were stranded until repairs could be

made. That journey is well documented, and several monasteries were built there to commemorate the event. There are no such legends about Magdalene in France until well into the Middle Ages, and these may be the result of the work carried there by the Order of the Magdalenes. It is conceivable that Magdalene spent her last years in France, coming from Ethiopia with a following of young women as apostles or nuns or priestesses. This explains the Black Madonnas and association of Magdalene with Ethiopia. Because of her unpleasant early experiences in India, it is understandable that Magdalene would not return there.

The black madonnas can be associated with Ethiopians in two ways: first because we have historical reference associating Magdalene with Ethiopia, and second, because many modern Ethiopians retain the same distinctive features today as appears on black madonnas; tall, well defined facial features, high cheekbones, long straight noses, long flowing hair, varied colored eyes, and slightly duskier skin tones than is common among European. Black Madonnas resemble Ethiopian and India women more than anything else.
Ean Begg reports the existence at one time or another of 450 black madonnas, mostly in Europe, and Marie Durand-LeFebvre reported on 272, mostly in France.



Black Madonna painted inside the Axum Cathedral. Axum is the site of Ethiopia's most ancient city, is now a small town, its glorious past no longer evident on the dusty streets. The 16th century Cathedral of St. Mary of Zion is built on the site of a much older church dating from the 4th century AD. This is where the Ark of the Covenant is said to be hidden. Many Black Madonnas may be based on the image of Mary Magdalene with needy children.

The Pistis Sophia[159] (3rd century) states that Jesus trained the apostles for 11 years *after* crucifixion. Joseph of Arimathea, Magdalene and others went to Britain. There are conflicting dates and various scenarios available in history. The following does not take place 11 years, but 3 years after the crucifixion-

> "In AD 36, the year of the great persecution in Jerusalem, [and the dispersion that followed] the party of Joseph of Arimathea and those who went with him into exile, was put out to sea in a vessel without sail or oars. This vessel drifted, and finally reached Massilia [Marseilles] where they were saved. From Massilia Joseph and his company passed into Britain and after preaching the Gospel there, died."

However, this was written centuries later by the Roman Catholic Church historian Cardinal Baronius (1538 - 1607) curator of the Vatican Library in 1597. Magdalene is counted on this journey in some chronicles, but not all. There may be a little truth in each version. Magdalene, Joseph of Arimathea, and many disciples traveled great distances on a regular basis. This was always necessary to prepare the way for others, to build churches, and spread the early religion. Apostles and disciples were in fact roaming 'diplomats' and business managers for Jesus. Isabel Hill Elder states in her *Joseph of Glastonbury* that the Celtic king gave these first Christian missionaries a gracious reception and his protection. He also gave them each one hide of land, equal to one hundred and sixty acres each, enough to enable a family to be self-sufficient. The land was on the islands of Avalon (home of the later Arthurian legends). Today the area around Glastonbury and the Somerset Levels is believed to have been the site of ancient Avalon.

This land grant included many concessions such as citizenship and all the privileges accorded the Druidic (priest) hierarchy.

Many medieval churches in the South of France, where Magdalene's presence was most strongly felt, were dedicated to her or had chapels and crypts where her relics could be venerated. Aix-en-Provence was a center of worship of Mary Magdalene. Historical researcher Val Wineyard, a resident and writer-researcher of all things French Magdalene, lives in Rennes-les-Bains in the Aude (southern France). She believes that Pilate's wife, Claudia Procula, was raised by an aristocratic family in Narbonne, France. She returned there and Magdalene, her personal friend, joined her some years later. She states-

> "Claudia Procula was a Roman princess and the wife of Pontius Pilate, the man who ordered Jesus Christ to be crucified... There's evidence that Claudia Procula tried to save Jesus and she was a secret disciple. She was the grand-daughter of the great Emperor Augustus so she was of Royal blood...Claudia Procula was the secret disciple of Jesus and friend of Mary Magdalene...she played a far bigger role in the Bible story than has ever been suspected. She knew socially, or was friends with, so many people in Jesus's circle."(*Claudia Procula, The Secret Disciple of Jesus,* available at marymagdalenebooks.com)

Since little is said of Claudio in the New Testament, and no verifiable biography exists, details on Pilate's wife are surmised from Christian tradition and legend.

'Mary of Bethany' in some Christian traditions is considered the same person as Mary Magdalene. Mary of Bethany was the sister of Lazarus and Martha. Mary and Martha are among the most familiar sets of sisters in the Bible. Both Luke and John describe them as *friends* of Jesus, not as relatives or in-laws, not wife or concubine, and not as sisters or brother of Magdalene. Why would they miss such an opportunity to be clear about the truth? None

wanted to go on record as being the historical liar and fraudulent apostle, especially if they wrote while Jesus was still living.

Magdalene was not the wife of Jesus, nor the founder of the bloodline of the Holy Grail in Britain or France. Nothing rules out the possibility that Magdalene married someone else and had children, or that she went to Britain and France with them. The wedding at Canna could *not* have been Magdalene's wedding. As a bride on that day, her behavior would have been markedly different.

There is not one shred of evidence or hint anywhere that Magdalene ever wed John the Baptist.

Magdalene is honored as one of the first witnesses of the Resurrection of Jesus, and told the Apostles of his resurrection. She may have been as young as 13 or 14 years old at the crucifixion, as old as 17 or 18.

She is often depicted on icons bearing a vessel of ointment, not because of the anointing by the 'sinful woman', but because she was among those women who brought ointments to the tomb of Jesus. For this reason, she is called a Myrrh bearer.

According to Eastern traditions, not based on any written facts, she retired to Ephesus with Mother Mary, and there she died. Her relics, or what was presumed to be her relics, were transferred to Constantinople in 886 and are preserved there. It was Gregory of Tours, chronicler of the Frankish kings in the late 6th century, who recorded the older tradition that Mary Magdalene died in Ephesus. This account was, however, contradicted in a late document in Latin (c. 5th to 6th century) which, referring to an earlier record, claimed that Mary Magdalene had travelled to Aix-le-Provence and lived there for many years. By that account, she died in Aix at the age of 60.

Mary Magdalene's relics were first venerated at the abbey of Vezelay in Burgundy. How they may have gone from Ephesus to Burgundy is not explained anywhere in history, and many scholars feel certain these are not her authentic relics. The next account is by Jacobus de Voragine who describes the transfer of the relics of Mary Magdalene from her sepulcher in the oratory of Saint Maximin at Aix-en-Provence to the newly founded abbey of Vezelay; the transportation of the relics is entered as undertaken in 771 by the founder of the abbey, identified as Gerard, duke of Burgundy.

The earliest mention of this episode is the notice of the chronicler Sigebert of Gembloux (died 1112), who asserts that the relics were removed to Vezelay through fear of the Saracens. This does make sense. As we have seen throughout this book, moving old bones around was a passion- a religious duty- a filial responsibility of the highest order. But it confuses historians if careful records are not kept. History gets muddy, the precise situation we are in now with Magdalene.

In another version, sometime after the final Crusade, the relics were moved to Italy where they were buried beneath the altar of the Lateran Cathedral in

Rome. Other documentation places part of her relics near Marseilles where, as mentioned, the splendid St Maximum's Basilica was built over them. Could it really be that her bones are buried within the glass pyramid at the Louvre Museum, as suggested in the popular Dan Brown novel, 'The DaVinci Code'? Of all possibilities, this is surely the most ridiculous. Where, then, is Mary Magdalene buried? The only honest answer is that no one knows.

Doing any scientific testing such as DNA is beyond the budget of a small church. Even if testing were done on such relics, it could not prove the identity of the saint, only the age of the bones. And if the bones did turn out to be 2000 years old, who is to say that they weren't stolen from a Roman burial site of the same date, as it was known to have happened; there are many known Roman cemeteries in the vicinity of Aix.

MAGDA-THE SOURCE

The word Magdha may come from the Aramaic word megaddela-suggesting a woman's braided hair- hairdressers- and eventually harlots. It can also mean a towering figure, or from the word migdal, a tower. Some Talmud passages suggest it is associated with temple priestesses.

The Ethiopians called their Great Mother Goddess, 'Mahram Magda.' The name Magdha appears often in relation to goddesses and temples, as something 'above average', or 'in elevated status'. There is a town in Ethiopia named Magdala, the site of a battle involving the British Army in 1868. It is now called Amra Mariam (place of Mary).

The Kingdom of Magadha, India was founded around 900-800 BC. In about 200 BCE the grammarian, Patanjali defined the eastern limit of Brahmanical culture as the Kalaka forest, thus excluding Magadha from their claims. The Baudhyana Dharma Sutra (1.2.9) and the Vasistha Dharma Sutra (1.8-12) both set similar limits to the eastern borders of the Aryavata. The region east of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers was not considered Brahmanical. Were they Hebrews? Very probably, yes.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

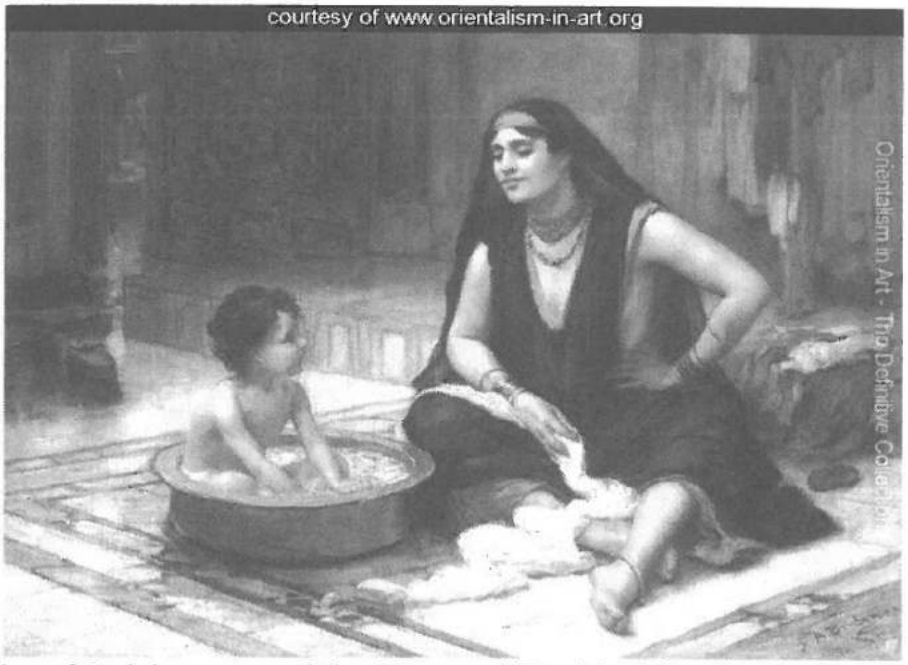
Magdalene was the founder of ashrams for orphans, homeless and unwanted children born out of wedlock, thus she would be depicted with a child in her arms. There is a well-known legend that the apostle Luke painted a picture of Mother Mary with the child Jesus. This makes no sense. Jesus was an adult, fully-grown man, probably standing right next to him, looking over his shoulder and admiring his artistic skills. Why would Luke paint Jesus as an infant, and not Jesus the man standing next to him? It makes no sense, unless these depictions were never intended to represent Mother Mary and the baby Jesus.

They *could* however, have represented Magdalene with her own children, or with the many children she cared for through her orphanages and ashrams. There are several non-canonical gospels which deserve serious attention and which treat the subject of Jesus' travels outside of Israel. There is a brief

passage on Jesus' travels in the *Gospel of the Holy Twelve.* [160] Translated from Aramaic by Reverend Ousley, it had been largely discredited until earlier fragments of the same gospel began turning up elsewhere. According to this document, Jesus' early marriage to a woman named Miriam ended when Miriam died.

Here is that passage from Lection VI-13-

> 'And in the eighteenth year of his age, Jesus was espoused unto Miriam, a virgin of the tribe of Judah* with whom he spent seven years, and she died, for God took her, that he might go on to the higher things which he had to do, and to suffer for the sons and daughters of men.'



[The tribe of Judah means of the House of David. After the death of Saul, all the tribes other than Judah remained loyal to the House of Saul, while Judah chose David as its king. If she was of the House of David, then she was Jewish. Magdalene was not Jewish.]

This girl may be Marjan, the girl from Kashmir that Jesus wed, who bore him children, and whose name Jesus and Thomas carved in her memory on the stones at Tahkt-i-Suleiman. The Biblical wedding at Cana 'could' have been the second wedding of Jesus after his return from India at about age 30. This would be the traditional age that most men married, then and now. Wives are expected to leave their families and become part of the mother-in-law's household. That is still the tradition in eastern and Asian cultures. Thus, Jesus' wife would be living with, and caring for Mother Mary.

But keep in mind how Jesus chastised the Brahmins for using Magdalene, a mere child, in such a shameful way. How old was she then? A 'child' would no doubt be any young woman under the age of 12-13, temple prostitutes

began as young as age 5. Magdalene may have been between 10 and 13 years old when she met Jesus. It was this girl that Jesus and Mother Mary adopted.

Depending upon which marriage of Jesus produced children, the eldest child of Jesus may have been between 10 and 13 years old at time of crucifixion, a little younger than Magdalene herself. This would be the son(s) seen with Jesus at Taxila and Ajanta, the son Saul met on the road to Damascus. This would be Eli-Kim/ Eli-Mar, or Toraman and Hiranya (we discuss these men in full in another chapter).

Even assuming that Jesus *did* wed Magdalene later, only first son(s) with Marjan (the first wife) would be acknowledged as the royal bloodline, -the desposyni. Assuming they survived and had progeny, this bloodline would take precedence over any of Jesus' children through Magdalene.

In the *'Lost Gospel of Peter'* Magdalene appears at the empty tomb as a disciple of Jesus, not as a wife, companion or concubine. Thus the wedding at Canna was not of Jesus and Magdalene. The following Biblical wording is significant and should remove any lingering doubts we have about a marriage between Jesus and Magdalene.[161] It never existed.

The Book of Tobit 4: 12-

> 'Beware of all whoredom, my son, and chiefly take a wife of the seed of thy fathers, and take not a strange woman to wife, which is not of thy father's tribe: for we are the children of the prophets, Noe, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: remember, my son, that our fathers from the beginning, they all married wives of their own kindred, and were blessed in their children, and their seed shall inherit the land.'

Returning to Magdalene, The Order of Magdalene endured after Magdalene died, probably aided by its association with Jesus and the rapidly growing new Christianity. The Order established churches, orphanages, and hospitals into the 2nd and 3rd centuries. We know that at least 300 women were ordained by Jesus in India and many eventually followed him to Judea and continued to work with Magdalene there.

The apostles, male and female, were dispersed to many countries in the same way that Buddhism was spread by King Ashoka, and it had a huge impact on the world's philosophical, moral, and legal direction.

The Order of Magdalenes faded out after a few centuries, not to appear again until the 19th and 20th centuries, when a very different kind of institution was started up in Magdalene's name.

ORDER OF THE MAGDALENES-THEIR BAD IMAGE

Manifesto of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (Irish Magdalene Convents)

> 'The aim of this institute is to provide a shelter for girls and women of dissolute habits, who wish to do penance for their iniquities and lead a truly Christian life. Not only voluntary penitents, but also those

> consigned to us by civil or parental authorities are admitted. Many of these penitents want to remain here for life. They are admitted to take vows and become members of the Order of the Magdalenes under the direction of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. They are austere and contemplative, following the example of the 'Third Order of Mount Carmel'. Many of these Magdalenes frequently rise to an eminent degree of sanctity. Children are also admitted before they have fallen or been stained by serious crime. They are instructed in habits of industry and self-respect and in all duties they owe to themselves or society. ' Fiachra Gibbons wrote in 'The Guardian' 6 February 2003- "Any 'Magdalene institution, especially in Ireland, became known as Magdalene laundries, harbingers of child slave labor and dehumanizing abuses. Every woman and child who entered one of these closed laundries supposedly did so voluntarily, following the example of Mary Magdalene the prostitute who became the 13th disciple of Christ. However, in reality these women had become inhuman prisoners and slaves in labor camps.'

Jesus remade Magdalene and other emboldened and independent women into 'virgins' -not earning their substance through sexual favors- similar to celestial virgins who committed to remaining chaste while they served in the temples. He made them 'like men,' forsaking their inferior positions in society as sexual slaves, and becoming equals.

Magdalene was described as 'barren' and 'the mother of the angels' in the Gospel of Phillip. Caring for Jesus' children, or disadvantaged and orphaned children, but having none of her own, takes the mystery out of this description. Further, we will later read about the death of the son and grandson of Jesus. They might be thought of as 'angels' cared for by Magdalene before their deaths.

DEVADASI-TEMPLE PROSTITUTES

The devadasi was the proverbial dancing girl of India. Her name immediately suggests the two worlds she inhabited – those of gods and of slaves. She served god (deva), and also men who assumed godly status (priests) as a slave (dasi), and considered it an honor. *Women of Pride: The Devadasi Heritage* by Lakshmi Vishwanathan (2008)-

> 'She had to hone her skill in dance and music and prove her ability to give pleasure to men and earn her position in temple and court. She was henceforth regarded as an auspicious woman, married to the god and serving the king and his subjects. The devadasi re-invented herself in every age, until her little world became unacceptable to modern society. New cultural and social influences dictated by Victorian morality re-defined he status and sought to make her an ordinary woman.'

What happened to Magdalene in India was tragic by modern standards, but not unusual. Today the custom still exists in India, although efforts are underway by the Government to stamp it out. Today in many countries this is identified with child pornography. Temple prostitution so upset Lord Buddha that he made very harsh rules for the female bikkhus in the temples, including total sexual abstinence and shaving off their hair.

In the Ancient Near East along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, there were many shrines and temples or 'houses of heaven' dedicated to deities, documented by Herodotus in *The Histories,* where sacred prostitution was a common practice.

The Bible has a very different view of temple prostitution.

Deuteronomy 23:17-18-

'No Israelite man or woman is to become a shrine prostitute.... Because the Lord your God detests them both.'



Devadasi (photo by James Varghese, Christian News Today, 2004). This 5 year old child is being blessed with flower petals before she enters the temple as a devadasi. Her sexual duties will begin almost immediately. Attempts have been made to stop this practice, but priests resist, claiming it is their ancient right to practice their religious freedoms.

The lines between sacred temple prostitution and ordinary prostitution are almost invisible. Traditionally, no stigma was attached to the devadasi or to her children; when they do leave the temples they have no choice but to become prostitutes for the general public. The practice of 'dedicating' girls to Hindu gods (hence to the priests who attend these gods) is based upon Hindu

scriptures that state once someone is dedicated to a god or deity, no other marriage is possible. The deity (through its priests) will fulfill all your needs.

In India today, young girls, mainly of the lowest class, 'untouchables,' are still dedicated to temples when they are as young as 4 or 5 years old. Children under the age of 13 constitute about 40% of all prostitutes in India today. The other countries leading in child prostitution are Brazil and Thailand. [162]

The temple children in India wash the deities (idols) and the temple floors, cook and clean by day, and take care of the priests' sexual needs at night. Some attempts have been made to portray devadasis as dancing girls pursuing 'high art' similar to Japanese geishas, but this is simply not true. The life of devadasis is one of slavery and hardship. Priests believe it is their religious right to take these children. For the girls, there is no hope for a decent life when they grow up, except a life of begging on the streets as an untouchable, an outcaste shunned by all or working outside the temple as slaves to farmers or prostitutes to the lowest classes. A few lucky ones might find work as laborers after their temple servitude, but there is little hope.

Christianity first appeared in Egypt in 42 AD in the Egyptian city of Alexandria. Jesus' sent Magdalene here before she went to Ethiopia, and disciple Mark preached in Alexandria. Many became Christians there. In 42 AD there was no reference to the wife of Jesus. If such a marriage had happened Jesus would not have sent Magdalene away, and Mark, a contemporary and disciple of Jesus, would have noted their marriage. In all the books and manuscripts kept in Alexandria and Rome there was absolutely no reference to the wife of Jesus. The early Christians of Alexandria and Rome had never heard about the wife of Jesus. If such a wife had passed away young in India, this becomes understandable. The first Church in Jerusalem and later the congregation of Christians at Antioch had not referred to the wife of Jesus. The author claims that in a fragment found in Egypt there is a reference to the wife of Jesus. The author also says that the fragment was produced 250 years after the resurrection of Jesus. This may also be reference to the wife of Jesus who died so young; or a wife he took in his old age in Kashmir from whom the Bashrat Shaheen family claim their decent.

Later in the book, we will read about two suggested sons of Jesus. One son died childless. This may explain why, in numerous paintings of Magdalene, especially at the crucifixion, one child is always depicted with wings, although in fact the deceased child may have reached maturity before dying. The images are allegory. Dr. James Tabor mentions another description used in reference to Magdalene. She is noted as Miriam the Megadla, which means the "baby tender," or the one who "grows" the child. This would be a peculiar use of the term to describe a mother, but is more aptly used to describe a nanny.[163] This seems to fit Magdalene's role precisely at the side of the widowed Jesus raising a child or children.

The Gospel of Phillip-

'There were three who always walked with the Lord: Mary, his mother, and her sister, and Magdalene, the one who was called his companion. His sister and his mother and his companion were each a Mary....The Sophia whom they call the barren is the Mother of the Angels and the consort of Christ is Mary Magdalene.'



Priestesses of the goddess Vesta were known as the Vestal Virgins of 1st Century Rome. They were dedicated to temples at age 5 and had to remain virgins for 30 years, then they were free to marry. Their tasks included the maintenance of the fire sacred to Vesta, the goddess of the hearth and home. They had a powerful influence in State affairs. They once Interceded on Caesar's behalf and gained him pardon. Their good example helped women like Magdalene gain respect and support for the Order of the Magdalenes.

Women were important among Jesus' followers and his ministry. In the '*Mystical Sayings of Jesus*' # 113, Simon Peter said-

'Let Mari leave us, because women are not ready for the teaching of immortality.'

Yesu said-

'Behold, I shall guide her so as to make her one with the male that she too may become a living spirit. For every female who becomes one

with the male will enter the kingdom of heaven. Let them who have ears, hear.'

Luke 10-

"It shall not be taken away from her."

Jesus was saying, 'Do not take Mary's vocation 'as my student' and as a temple 'priestess' away from her. She is entitled to whatever the men students are entitled to. She has the right to be ordained.' He was saying-

'Be like a man! You are as good as they are. You are equal to them. Stand on your own two feet. Teach the female apostles. Build ashrams and help the less fortunate children. You can do this. Just try.' And so she did.



Nun comes from the word renunciate-to live a life for the service of others less fortunate. For more than 2,000 years, nuns have organized themselves worldwide. Even ancient Rome had groups of women dedicated to a life of service for others, such as the Celestial Virgins. Buddhist nuns are 'Bikkunis'. Mother Teresa (1910-1997) founded the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic religious congregation, of over 4,500 'sisters' active in 133 countries in 2012. They run hospices and homes for people with HIV/AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis- soup kitchens- dispensaries and mobile clinics- children's and family counseling programs- orphanages and schools. Members of this order must give up the most in their personal lives and adhere to vows of chastity, poverty, obedience, and the fourth vow, to give "wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor." Mother Theresa is best remembered for her work in the slums of Calcutta, India.



'Waiting for Gabriel' by Christopher Vacher.

'We can do no great things; only small things with great love.'
Mother Teresa of Calcutta

MIRACLES OR MYTH?

There are three starting positions regarding the conception of Jesus.
1- Jesus had no human father. God /Elohim created him.
2- Jesus is the biological son of Joseph.
3- Jesus is the biological son (bastard son) of an unnamed male, conceived illegitimately by unknown circumstances. (Rape? Love? Passion?)

THEORY 1- MIRACULOUS BIRTHS

Theory 2 and 3 (above) both suggest natural biological fathers for Jesus, and this is discussed in more detail in the chapter about kings and bloodlines. Therefore, I will use this space to explore option one, the Biblical miraculous virgin birth of Jesus, which begins with an announcement to Mary from the angel Gabriel. However, miraculous births were written in the Old Testament long before the birth of Jesus, beginning with Elohim choosing 'wives' from earth. Miraculous births are a common element in historical literature and religious texts. Stories of miracle births often include miraculous conceptions and features such as intervention by a deity, supernatural elements, and astronomical signs. As we saw in Chapter One, the Old Testament begins with angel marrying women on earth.

Gabriel first appears in the Old Testament (the Tanakh) to explain Daniel's visions (*Daniel 8:15–26, 9:21–27*). Then 600 years later, he appears to Zechariah and Mother Mary in *Luke*, in the New Testament. When we get to the New Testament, angels become an integral part of the entire story of the lives and deaths of Mother Mary and Jesus. These topics were once fringe theories shunned by all scholars. Now the most respected and brilliant physicists and scientists in the world are eagerly endorsing these theories (Biblical encounters) as they explain the abundance of life in the Universe, and how close we are to a breakthrough in direct communications with life outside our galaxy. The Catholic Encyclopedia states-

> 'Hitherto we have dwelt almost exclusively on the angels of the Old Testament, whose visits and messages have been by no means rare; but when we come to the New Testament their name appears on every page and the number of references to them equals those in the Old Dispensation.'[164]

People misunderstand the term 'Immaculate Conception' as applied by the Catholic Church. This applies only to the conception of Mother Mary, namely Mary's conception by her mother and father in the normal way, but free from original sin.

The nativity, that is the birth of Jesus, is the 'Virgin Birth' to Catholics. In modern terms virgin births suggest 'in vitreo' inseminations - 'test tube' babies conceived without sex. If Jesus was never associated with Immaculate Conceptions and Virgin births, then his story might have been written like this: "Joseph and Mary wed. The ceremony was attended by guests from far and wide who brought wonderful gifts. Their first born son was a fine lad destined for great things…." However, it wasn't written this way.



Our history has two sides, a divine and a human.

There are only two references among the four gospels about a virgin birth. It is first mentioned in the book of Matthew, which was written around 80 years after the crucifixion. The other gospel that mentions a virgin birth is Luke.

The virgin birth has been doubted (or denied) by many scholars, who often regard the birth-narratives in Matthew and Luke not as historical record but as some form of imaginative literature, expressing the significance of Jesus' birth in symbolic, poetic, mythical or Midrashic terms. Why this 'disconnect' in their logic? They are willing to accept the mystery of Elohim and Nephilim on the earth in the Old Testament, yet deny this could also account for Jesus' conception. The absence of explicit reference to the virgin birth elsewhere in the New Testament, especially Mark and Paul, purportedly confirms that it was not part of the earliest traditions about Jesus.

> *Mark 6:3-* 'Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?' So they were offended at Him.'

To describe someone as the son of his mother instead of his father without good cause is quite disparaging, especially in Hebrew culture. Most modern liberal theologians have generally rejected the virgin birth. They regard it as a religious myth that was added to Christian belief in the late first century CE and was partly based on a Greek mistranslation of the book of Isaiah from the original Hebrew. Some births considered miraculous in the Bible include Sarah conceiving in her old age, or Gabriel informing the pending conception of John the Baptist, but these are not specifically virgin births or immaculate conceptions.

> John F. MacArthur, Jr.- [165]
> 'The virgin birth is an underlying assumption of everything the Bible says about Jesus. To throw out the virgin birth is to reject Christ's deity, the accuracy and authority of Scripture, and a host of other related doctrines that are the heart of the Christian faith. No issue is more

> important than the virgin birth to understand who Jesus is. If we deny Jesus is God, we have denied the very essence of Christianity.'

If there was no Immaculate Conception or Virgin Birth, then no magi needed to visit at Jesus' birth, and this eliminates the need for unnatural stars guiding them. No astrology or astronomy charts were needed for mythical visits. There were no gifts from the magi. They did not have to slip away unnoticed by Herod. Herod did not order the death of any infants. There was no need to flee to Egypt with the baby Jesus. Not just the virgin birth, but the entire premise for the New Testament has just become meaningless myth. John met angels, and wrote about this in *Revelation 22:8-9-*

> 'When I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, 'Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!'

To examine the stories of Elohim, Nephilim, angels and ascensions, specifically to connect them to the UFO art associated with the church and the Christian faith, we have exciting new possibilities. Without changing a word in the Bible, we have changed the meaning of everything it says.

The case for the virgins and miraculous births in the Bible still have a profound amount of corroboration from outside sources who have no ax to grind, and no direct involvement, nor even knowledge of the Biblical dramas being lived out at the time. The birth of Noah was one such drama, as we read in a previous chapter.

We not only have important doctors like Luke defending Mother Mary's story, we also have magi traveling thousands of miles, led by a mysterious star that 'stops when they stop, and moves when they move' to lead them to this auspicious birth. Such unnatural lights in the sky were observed and recorded by many outside the Bible and around the world for thousands of years. They appear in paintings made long before humans invented flight. Such depictions only help strengthen the Jesus stories.

If the magi were following a star or light, it was not their intention to select the next Buddhist or Hindu Bodhitsattva. This would have involved completely different criteria and objectives. In the case of Mary, the family of this auspicious child had already been selected, had been pre-determined, and the magi were being directed to find them and secure the future of the entire family. This bears no similarity what so ever with a search for a Bodhisattva, nor his life after he was chosen.



'Madonna with Saint Giovannino' by Domineco Ghirlandalo (1449-1494) this is in the Loeser collection in the Palazzo Vechio, built in the 12th century as seat of the Gv.of Italy. The original statue of David once stood here. UFO's were often painted into religious scenes of the era, and became an integral part of Church history.

We need to think carefully about what constitutes supporting 'evidence' for Biblical miracles.

The Hakatha (Laws of the Babylonians written almost 4,000 years ago in 1750 BC) states-

> 'The privilege of operating a flying machine is great. The knowledge of flight is among the most ancient of our inheritances- 'A gift from 'those on high'. We received it from them as a means of saving many lives.' [166]

'Those from on high' may be gods, but are they God? No. Usually a clear distinction is made. Of all the accounts of flight and angels in the Bible, the one mentioned most often is Ezekiel's Wheel. (*Ezekiel 1:16*). One of the passages reads: "This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: They sparkled like chrysolite, and all four looked alike. The center of the fire (bright lights) looked like glowing metal." These beams of energy are described as a cloud in the daylight and a pillar of fire in the nighttime.

Christianity Magazine, July 1999-

> 'Miracles do fall into the category of history. Biblical miracles cannot be proved or disproved by science. As with any event in the past, they are open to historical investigation and interpretation. As noted, if they are ruled out before investigation, then a clear bias is present. However, we cannot determine in advance what can or cannot occur. We cannot determine in advance that it is impossible for a miracle to have occurred. We must investigate the historical claims. And this

brings us right back to the Bible and its reliability. If we can trust the Bible, then we can believe that miracles have occurred.

Why do we try so hard to make the virgin birth any lesser or greater a miracle than, say, the feeding of the five thousand, or Jesus walking on water? Or Aaron's rod budding at Kadesh, or Moses parting the Red Sea, or starting a flowing river by striking a rock in the dry desert of Zin?'

DESIGNER GENES

If we choose to believe that Jesus was produced by the sons of gods who appeared since the very beginning of Biblical history in the Old Testament, then Jesus was just another creation of the Elohim, accomplished through their offspring, the Nephilim. If Gabriel, for example, was Elohim (technically speaking, he was a messenger for the Elohim, which means 'god' or 'gods' in both modern and ancient Hebrew language) then direct intercourse was not necessary, and perhaps was impossible for any number of reasons we can readily imagine. Was Gabriel the father of Jesus, or just the messenger to Mary?

Gabriel told Mary "the power of the Holy Spirit will come upon you" rather than "my power will come upon you." (Luke 1:26-38. Mark 16, Luke 2). This suggests that we can rule Gabriel out as the father.

MATES

If Mary was a virgin, then she did no 'wrong' when she consented to Gabriel's request. Sex out of wedlock or with someone other than a marriage partner was, and still is considered wrong legally, morally and Biblically. This is primarily so the child knows who its parents are and has certain legal rights regarding his/her place in society and inheritance. The mother and child face very serious consequences if this trust between a man and a woman is violated. DNA paternity testing is available today to remove all such doubts.

In-vitreo fertilization, or artificial insemination, places the mother and child in a very different position morally and culturally. Infertile couples resort to 'donor genes' to overcome infertility. The child is not biologically theirs, but is legally, morally, and emotionally bonded to them in all other respects. It is the same situation for parents, especially fathers of 'miraculous' children from the gods.

If the *Bible* is not true, but is all allegory, then perhaps there never was a Moses, the Red Sea never parted, and the Rod of Moses is a myth. It did not exist at the time of Jesus, therefore Pilate foolishly risked his career and sent soldiers to Mount Gerizim to fight the Samaritans and recover Hebrew relics that never existed. The Rod placed in Roza Bal tomb, complete with a carefully recorded lineage, is a mere stick broken off from a local almond

tree, surrounded by fake documentation and worthless forgeries, a Kashmiri conspiracy theory created by people who detest the faith it represents.

There is no need to look further for the Ark of the Covenant. A 'star' never guided Moses out of Egypt or the magi to Bethlehem. Mother Mary had an indiscretion with a son of Joseph, or a Roman soldier named Pantera[167] (although this hypothesis is considered extremely unlikely by mainstream scholars, given that there is no evidence to support it.) In fact, some say the evidence is almost non-existent that Jesus ever existed!

The historicity of the *Bible*'s miraculous claims is contingent on the general reliability of the *Bible* itself. Is the totality of *Bible* all allegory or myth, part myth, one-third myth? We know the world was not created in six days, but in 14 billion years. We know the earth was not covered by a great flood after the appearance of mammals and mankind. We know evolution is true because the fossil evidence has survived. We know in reality that spiritual winged angels probably don't exist (spirits don't need wings. When Jesus appeared after the resurrection, he did not appear with wings, although he too was described as a spiritual being after crucifixion). Wings were an allegory to distinguish living things not of this world. So what parts of the Bible are allegory, and what part is fact?

Any method employed to investigate the Bible's historicity *must* include an examination of the miraculous, but was the miraculous allegory? If so, then allegory for....what?

Gerhard Hasel- (168)

> 'If the reality of the Bible text testifies to a supra-historical dimension, which transcends the self-imposed limitations of the historical-critical method, then one must employee a method that accounts for this dimension, and can probe into all the layers of depth and historical experience, and deal adequately and properly with the Scripture's claim to truth.'

The authors of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke consider Jesus' conception *not* the product of intercourse, and assert that Mary had no relations with any man before Jesus' birth.[169] These Gospels were written from the middle of the first century onward.[170] The earlier text evolved from simpler texts based on Matthew 28:19. The Apostle's Creed was already in written form by the late 2nd century (c. 180). The title, *Symbolum Apostolicum* (Symbol or Creed of the Apostles), appears for the first time in a letter from a Council in Milan to Pope Siricius in about 390: "Let them give credit to the Creed of the Apostles, which the Roman Church has <u>always</u> kept and preserved undefiled." The account of the origin of this creed, the forerunner and principal source of the Apostles' Creed, was jointly created by the Apostles under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, with each of the twelve contributing one of the articles. It states: "He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the

Virgin Mary." Recall from the previous chapter that 'Holy Spirit' applies to Jesus *after* the crucifixion, still in his human form.

Would twelve apostles come together to create a big lie? Would they believe so ardently in Jesus if they knew they were representing a fraud, a con man, and a liar? Would they lose all, endure torture and death for such a man? Surely if that had been so, then at least some apostles would have given a hint through their writings, spread across many lands and many years that something was amiss, but they did not. The premise of this entire book is that Jesus lived beyond the crucifixion; therefore, he and his mother would be aware of the accounts written by his own disciples in the first century, and they would know what was false.

Between a third and half of the world's populations, 3 billion people, are Christians. They include Mother Mary in their worship in one way or another. She is mentioned 19 times in the Bible, and 34 times in the Quran. [(2)] More than half the world's population reveres Mother Mary although many are not Christians.

The term 'Mother of God' was first applied to her by those who saw her daily and knew her well. The date of the *Gospel of Luke* is as early as 59 or 60 AD.[171] Luke was a physician who lived in Antioch, Syria.

Archaeologist Sir William Ramsay wrote-

> 'Luke is a historian of the first rank. Not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy... [he] should be placed along with the very greatest of historians.'

Assuming that Luke was neither a liar, nor writing with a personal agenda to distort Christianity in its very infancy, as Saul was later accused of, and happened during the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, then why would Luke, a physician, accept Mary's virginity and Immaculate conception as fact? He was a devout practicing Jew who relied on the scriptures of the Old Testament to determine the right or wrong of Mary's actions. Genesis states the Elohim and Nephilim remained *'and also, afterward'*. How long afterward? Where is it written that they left us for a few years, a few centuries, or forever? There are claims today, even by astronauts and pilots, of seeing UFO's all over the skies, suggesting that the Elohim never left. After Adam and Eve, they hung around long enough to have a hand in the birth of many offspring, including Noah. Consider again how Lamech went to his own father Methuselah and said-

> 'I have begotten a strange son; he is not like a human being, but resembles the children of the angels of heaven, and his nature is different, and he is not like us, and his eyes are as the rays of the sun, and his countenance is glorious. And it seems to me that he is not sprung from me, but from the angels, and I fear that in his days a wonder may be wrought on the earth. And now, my father, I am here to petition thee and implore thee, that thou mayest go to Enoch, our father,

and learn from him the truth, for his dwelling place is among the angels.'[172]

WHEN A STAR IS NOT A STAR

Astrology and astronomy charts are of no use to us when the lights don't remain in the sky and do not behave like other natural stars in the sky. The star or light that guided the magi is found frequently in Exodus, where it is characterized as a pillar of light, or a cloud of light (for example: *Exodus* 14:19, *Exodus* 14:24, *Exodus* 16:10, *Exodus* 19:18, 20, 20:18, Exodus 33:9, 34:5, *Numbers* 12:5).

Moses, and the Magi in search of the infant Jesus, witnessed a guiding light with exactly the same characteristics. It stopped when they stopped, and moved when they moved. It was a guiding light showing them the way. It was neither a comet nor a star, and no physics, quantum mechanics, astrology or astronomy can explain a star that will react in such an unnatural way. Therefor we must assume the word 'star' is being used here as allegory for something different, something unnatural.

Exodus 13.21-

'The presence of God was in a pillar, a cloud of fire that led the assembly. It went before them by day in the pillar of cloud and by night as a pillar of fire to give them light, so they could go by day or by night.'

Book of the Bee Chapter 38-

'As touching the nature of that star, whether it was a star in its nature or in appearance only, it was not of the other stars, but a secret power that appeared like a star; for all the other stars that are in the firmament, and the sun and moon, perform their course from east to west. This one, however, made its course from north to south, for Palestine lies thus, over against Persia.

This star was not seen by them at night only, but also during the day, and at noon; and it was seen at the time when the sun is particularly strong, because it was not one of the stars. Now the moon is stronger in its light than all the stars, but it is immediately quenched and its light dissipated by one small ray of the sun. But this star overcame even the beams of the sun by the intensity of its light. Sometimes it appeared, and sometimes it was hidden entirely. It guided the Magi as far as Palestine. When they drew near to Jerusalem, sometimes it came down and sometimes it mounted up; and it also stood over the head of the Child, then it was hidden; and when they went forth from Herod, and began to journey along the road, it appeared and showed itself again. This was not an ordinary movement of the stars, but a rational power. Moreover, it had no fixed path, but when the Magi travelled, it travelled also, and when they halted, it halted, as the Evangelists tell us.'



We have the very detailed flight of an unnatural 'star' that-regardless what era we credit the writing to- they were all well before the era of modern flight. Several are associated with events in Jesus' life. Why?

We know from Persian historians that the magi and young princes assembled on the Persian-Afghan border, in Seisten, at the palace complex known as Kuh-i Khwaja hill, the castle of Rustam where Gondopharnes and his brother Gad dwelled. It is a remote place that borders Iran and Afghanistan, built on a flat-topped black basalt hill rising up as an island in the middle of Lake Hamun. This was once a wetlands area teeming with marshes and wildlife and millions of migratory birds. Sadly, due to poor management, this entire wetlands basin is now dried up in to a massive salt bed. It is close enough to the main line of the Old Silk Road to make its location accessible for priests and magi and valuable economically. There are many layers of habitation and religious uses of the remaining buildings, a treasure trove for archaeologists.

Sara-i-Ibrahim is one of the local names, suggesting that once it may have been the abode of Abraham. Although Jewish scholars usually place Abraham's abode at Ur in Sumer, this may be a duplicate name. Shinar (Sumer) of the Old Testament is the same as Sineru of the Pali texts and Usinara of the Rig Veda.[173] Kuh-i-Khwaja is where the magi got their final instructions before leaving for Jerusalem. They began with the star in sight, and the star was ready and waiting to lead them when they were assembled.

To say that each magi represented a different continent makes no sense, nor do their Persian names suggest this. As you can see from any map, magi coming from Africa or Ethiopia would have to pass through the Middle East

to get to Seisten, and then double back to Bethlehem after meeting the other magi in Seisten, adding a thousand miles to his journey.

NAMES

Three of the most famous magi names were Balthazar, Melchior, and Casper. Gasper/Gad/Gondopharnes are all variations of the same name; Gushyn-'asaph' means 'son of' Gondopharnes, like Yuz Asaph means 'son of Joseph'. The tribal name Yusufzai in Pashto, which is the primary language of this region, translates to the "son of Joseph."[174]

In Persia there is a city called Saba (Saavakineh-Saba-Sava-in Seistan) where the magi gathered before leaving for Bethlehem. Although only three magi are well known, as many as 19 may have eventually met up with them and travelled together. At least one prince from the Kushan dynasty and Prince Ravenna from the south of India are mentioned in some accounts. In ancient legends, Ravenna was also associated with flight in India.

Saba was a bustling city, a major hub of the Silk Road connected to Taxila and Kashmir. Nearby is the old castle of Palasata, the castle of the fire-worshippers.

According to tradition, three of the magi were buried together in that city, mentioned in Marco Polo's *'Il Milione'* [175] (*'The Million'* or '*Travels of Marco Polo'*, Chapter 9, about Persia, written in 1298.) If these were the same bodies later moved to Constantinople (344 AD[176]) we cannot be sure.

Hebrews from both of the houses of the nation Israel/Yisr'el, the northern house of Ephraim and the southern house of Yahudah had been exiled to a geographical area that later became the Parthian Empire. The Parthian Empire existed in and around Aram from where Abraham dwelled, and is precisely the area we are now investigating. The Pathans or Pashtuns and Tajiks inhabit this area now, and are participants in DNA studies to determine if they are among descendants of the 'Lost Tribes' of Israel. They are over 50% Haplo group R1, Indo-European which does not exclude Jewish genetics.

In the fifth century, the story of the three magi grew to twelve, and they acquired an entourage of servants and military accompanying them on the journey to Bethlehem. Traveling with valuables like gold for the Jesus family would have necessitated a large entourage for protection. The Bible never actually counted three magi, but did list three gifts. The twelve magi are mentioned in several sources, including *The Books of Adam and Eve* and *The Cave of Treasures*.[177]

The Syrian Christian names for three of the magi were Larvandad, Gush-nasaph, and Hormisdas. Gondopharnes, whom Thomas and Jesus visited at Taxila, had been named among the magi-kings who visited Joseph and Mary at Jesus' birth. He was the youngest magi. Gondopharnes/Gushnasaph was also known as Gad, which could be either the Hebrew tribe of Gad, or a son from the lineage of Gad, the 7th son of Jacob and Leah. Through this lineage,

the magi-prince Gondopharnes was most probably related to Jesus as an uncle or cousin.

The name Gad associated with Gondopharnes also appears to be a regional derivative of Gilead, the same seventh son of Jacob. In Arthurian lore, this becomes Galahad-Galeas-or Galath.

THE TWELVE WHO WENT TO BETHLEHEM

Zarwandad, son of Artaban.
Hormizdad, son of Sitaruk/Santarok.
Gushnasaph, son of Gundaphar.
Arshakh, son of Miharok.
Zarwandad (2nd) son of Warzwad.
Iryaho, son of Kesro/Khosrau.
Artahshisht, son of Holiti.
Ashton abodan, son of Shiahron.
Meharok, son of Huham.
Ahshiresh, son of Hasban/Haban.
Sardalah, son of Baladan.
Merodach/Marduk, son of Beldaran.

The names are associated with the famous and powerful Arsacid Dynasty (247 BC – 224 AD) of Persia/ Parthia (Sistans-Sakas-Scythians-Yeuzi-Kushans) Afghanistan, India, and Kashmir.

The *Book of the Bee* states that members of the Sarman Brotherhood of Magi were chosen to visit Jesus at his birth, and so Zoroastrians insist *they* were the first who acknowledged the birth of Christ. The Magi, in their dual priestly and governmental offices, composed the upper house of the Council of the Megistanes (from which we get the term 'magistrates') whose duties included the absolute choice and election of kings. The reason their appearance in Jerusalem was disturbing to King Herod is that Herod got his title "King of the Jews" from Augustus Caesar, although he was not a Jew and was never acknowledged by the Magi. Thus, their request to Herod regarding the one who "has been born King of the Jews" was a calculated insult to him, a non-Jew who had contrived and bribed his way into that office.

For at least the second half of the Aracid era (247 BC to AD 224) the Surena family had the privilege to crown the Parthian kings. The dynasty of Gondopharnes (Gad) represented the House of Suren. This connects the Gondopharnes magi with their visit to Jesus at his birth, and again-later- when he returned to Kashmir, possibly to be acknowledged as king of Kashmir by Gondopharnes. This suggests two things; first, that Jesus had a remarkable

distinction being made at his birth; second, that Jesus was being acknowledged since birth as one of the kings of the Parthian Empire, of which Kashmir was a part at the time.

Chuck Missler [178] said 'It was this group of Persian--Parthian 'king makers' who entered Jerusalem in the latter days of the reign of Herod. Herod's reaction was understandably not a good one, considering the background of Roman-Parthian rivalry that prevailed during his lifetime.'

The Book of the Bee, Chapter 39, describes the coming of the magi from Persia-

> 'When Jesus was born the star appeared to the Magi in the east, and twelve Persian kings gathered offerings. Their names are Zarwandad, son of Artaban, Hormizdad, son of Sitaruk (Santarok), Gushnasaph, son of Gondopharnes [Casper/Gasper]. This king was a Suren, who declared independence from Parthia, likely related to Rustaham-Gondofarr, who was visited by the apostle Thomas (and Apollonius of Tyana). Some say the offerings that the Magi brought had been laid in the Cave of Treasures [first begun by Adam, who passed the treasures to Seth, Casper, et cetera] . . . the star rose again and guided them [Magi] until it stopped at the place where the child was.'

It is highly improbable that Persian magi, nor any other group for that matter, would so honor a poor child from a different race, religion, clan or kingdom, and we have already eliminated connections with Buddhists seeking the next bodhisattva. Bishop Osorio relates that it was a king of Cranganore[179] who undertook this journey with two of the magi, and that this king on his return to his own country-Kerala, India- built a chapel to the Holy Virgin.

The King of Cranganore appears again in the Jesus sagas. He was also important in the saga of Thomas in India after AD 45. We know he was Hebrew, and that Thomas obtained his immediate allegiance to Christianity when Thomas arrived at Cranganore (a more complete discussion about the King of Cranganore is included in the chapter about Thomas in India).

It has been asked how much gold Joseph and Mary were given. The *Gospel of the Infancy* states that Joseph and Mary were robbed in Egypt by Titus and Dumachus, *"but,"* say they, *"these wise men would never have robbed them if they (Joseph and Mary) had not had a great deal of money."* These two robbers were afterward hanged; one was the 'good' thief and the other the 'bad' one. However, the *"Gospel of Nichodemus"* gives them other names; it calls them Dimas and Gestas.

Suarez [180] has investigated what became of the gold that the magi presented. He maintains that the amount must have been very large, certainly more than the handful seen in most depictions. He says that the whole sum was later given to Judas, who, acting as steward, turned out to be a rogue who stole the whole amount.

There was a great fuss made over the birth of Jesus, above and beyond the birth of other young princes and prophets anywhere else in history.

The news about Mary's 'divine' conception was taken very seriously. Many Zoroastrians and Hebrew tribes and dynasties were eager to acknowledge this auspicious birth, and pledge their fidelity (often through conversions). They were organized and sometimes aided by unnatural forces and unnatural guiding lights. These were witnessed and recorded *outside* the Bible as well as within its pages.

RESTING PLACE OF MOTHER MARY

We have traced the origin for the word 'YuzAsaf' to the Pashtun language of the Kashmir region. We have traced the king Gondopharnes to the Jewish tribe of Gad. The word Gad can mean either 'good luck' or 'troops' as one son among many, so named by their mother Leah. When discussing the Biblical allotment of land granted the tribe of Gad, it is important to note this was the only allotment which was handed out by Moses before he died and before the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River (the area known as Trans-Jordan-the direct route to Afghanistan and Kashmir. The tribes of Gad and Manasseh both shared the Biblical land of Gilead.) Moses had predicted that he would be buried in the lands of Gad (Dent. 33:20-21). Mother Mary and Jesus would have direct knowledge of these graves, especially through their contact with King Gondopharnes, of the tribe of Gad.

Although many Christians believe that no information about the end of Mary's life or her burial are provided in the New Testament accounts or early apocrypha, there are actually over 50 apocryphon about Mary's death (or other final fate). The 3rd century *Book of John* about the Dormition of Mary places her tomb in Gethsemane, as does the 4th century Treatise about the passing of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The *Breviarius of Jerusalem*, a short text written in about AD 395, mentions the basilica of Holy Mary, which contains her sepulcher. Later, Saints Epiphanius of Salamis, Gregory of Tours, Isidore of Seville, Modest, Sophronius of Jerusalem, German of Constantinople, Andrew of Crete, John of Damascus talk about the tomb being in Jerusalem, and bear witness that this tradition was accepted by all the Churches of East and West.

Regarding the life, physical description, and death of Mother Mary, we have this-[181]

> 'The Mother of God remained in the care of the Apostle John the Theologian, and during his journeys, she lived at the home of his parents, near the Mount of Olives. She was a source of consolation and edification both for the Apostles and for all the believers. Conversing with them, she told them about miraculous events, about his early childhood, and about his earthly life. Like the Apostles, she helped

plant and strengthen the Christian Church by her presence, her discourse and her prayers.

The reverence of the Apostles for the Most Holy Virgin was extraordinary. After the receiving of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the Apostles remained at Jerusalem for about ten years attending to the salvation of the Jews, and wanting moreover to see the Mother of God and hear her holy discourse [this agrees with accounts of Jesus teaching the disciples for ten years before sending them to countries to carry on his teachings] Many of the newly-enlightened in the Faith even came from faraway lands to Jerusalem to see her.'

During the persecution initiated by King Herod against the Church of Christ (*Acts 12:1-3*), Mother Mary and the Apostle John went to Ephesus in the year 43 (the journey with Jesus to Kashmir happened two years later, or approximately 10-11 years after the crucifixion). The preaching of the Gospel there had fallen by lot to the Apostle John. Mary visited Cyprus to see St Lazarus.... where he was bishop. She also visited Mount Athos. According to the 'athonite' tradition passed down in monasteries built on Mount Athos, Mary was sailing with St John the Evangelist from Joppa to Cyprus to visit Lazarus. When the ship was blown off course to Athos, it was forced to anchor close to the present monastery of Iviron.

Overwhelmed by the wonderful and wild natural beauty of the mountain, she asked for it to be her garden, to remain wild, beautiful, and untouched. Only a woman with great authority and respect would have made such a request and expect it to be fulfilled.

The respect of ancient Christians for Mother Mary was so great that they preserved what they could about her life, what they could take note of concerning her sayings and deeds, and they even passed down to us a description of her outward appearance.

Based on the words of Ignatius and the Hieromartyr Dionysius[182] who both knew Mother Mary personally, St Ambrose wrote "On Virgins" concerning Mother Mary-

'She was a Virgin not only in body[183], but also in soul, humble of heart, circumspect in word, wise in mind, not overly given to speaking, a lover of reading and of work, and prudent in speech. Her rule of life was to offend no one, to intend good for everyone, to respect the aged, not envy others, avoid bragging, be healthy of mind, and to love virtue.

With her there was nothing of glaring eyes, nothing of unseemly words, or of improper conduct. She was modest in the movement of her body, her step was quiet, and her voice straightforward; She seldom appeared outside her house in the company of others....Mary was slightly more than average stature; her hair golden in appearance;

her green eyes bright with pupils like shiny olives, her face was neither round nor angular, but somewhat oblong; the palm of her hands and fingers were longish... (Nicephoros Callistus borrowed his description from St Epiphanius of Cyprus, from the "Letter to Theophilus Concerning Icons."

This describes a slightly taller than average woman with blond hair and bright green eyes. Green eye color is the rarest- only 1 percent to 2 percent of people in the world have green eyes. Green eyes are associated with people of Nordic, Germanic and Celtic ancestry. This presents an entirely different view of Mother Mary than depicted in popular media.

"The Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and announced her approaching departure from this life... She returned to Bethlehem with the three girls attending her: Sephora, Abigail, and Jael.... She summoned Joseph of Arimathea and other disciples of the Lord, and told them of her impending departure...she bathed and carefully groomed herself, and dressed in the finest robes of royalty...

The faithful, friends and family gathered around and surrounded her. The Disciples greeted her. She called each of them to herself by name, blessed them and extolled them for their faith and the hardships they endured as apostles of Christ. Then came the third hour (9 A.M.), when the Dormition of the Mother of God was to occur. A number of candles were burning. The disciples surrounded her beautifully adorned bed, offering prayers....Seeing her Son...and rising from her bed to meet him... without any bodily suffering, as though in a happy sleep, Mother Mary gave her soul into the hands of her Son and God." [184]

In the first century, the Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite wrote about her "Falling-Asleep." In the second century, the account of the *bodily* ascent of Mary to Heaven is found in the works of Meliton, Bishop of Sardis. In the fourth century, St Epiphanius of Cyprus refers to the tradition about the "Falling Asleep" of Mother Mary-

'The Apostles prepared to bury her. The procession went from the home of Saint John to the Mount of Olives where The Most Holy Theotokos was to be buried alongside her parents. Peter, Paul, James and others carried the funeral bier upon their shoulders. John led them, and a multitude of faithful followed with candles and incense burners, singing sacred songs. This solemn procession went from Sion through Jerusalem to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Unbelieving inhabitants of Jerusalem, taken aback by the extraordinarily grand funeral procession and vexed at the honor accorded the Mother of Jesus, complained of this to the High Priest and scribes.

Burning with envy and vengefulness toward everything that reminded them of Christ, they sent out their own servants to disrupt the procession and to set the body on fire. The Jewish priest Athonios (Jephonias) out of spite and hatred for Jesus of Nazareth, wanted to topple the funeral bier. The procession reached the Garden of Gethsemane amidst the weeping and wailing, and only towards evening were they able to place it in the tomb and seal the entrance to the cave with a large stone.

'For three days they did not depart from the place of burial, praying and chanting Psalms. The Apostle Thomas was not present at the burial of the Mother of God. Arriving late on the third day at Gethsemane, he lay down outside the tomb with bitter tears. He was permitted to enter the tomb, but her body was gone and only a cloth apron (girdle) remained behind. Thomas kept it.

St Anna, having been left a widow, moved from Nazareth to Jerusalem, and lived near the Temple.

At Jerusalem, she bought two pieces of property: the first at the gates of Gethsemane, and the second in the valley of Josaphat.

At the second locale, she built a tomb for the members of her family, and where also she herself was buried with Joachim. It was there in the Garden of Gethsemane that the Savior often prayed with His disciples. Christians honored the sepulcher of the Mother of God, and they built a church on this spot. Within the church was preserved the precious funeral cloth that had covered her body. (The 'ascension' of Mary was not recorded in the Gospels or Epistles.) Thomas did not arrive until three days after the funeral. The Apostles out of heartfelt pity for him decided to open the grave and permit Thomas to venerate the holy relics of Mary. Having opened the grave, they found in it only the grave wrappings, and were thus convinced of the bodily ascent of the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Heaven. There are no relics of the Theotokos that have ever been mentioned throughout history.'

If in fact she had died as stated above, when the tomb was opened for Thomas, she was not inside. Had Jesus taken her remains, hid them and planned to take her with him to be buried in Kashmir? Either she died in Jerusalem, or she died in Kashmir. It cannot be both. Either her body remained on earth, or it ascended. It cannot be both. Records along the Old Silk route mention the travels of Jesus and his mother, and she was very much alive. However, we don't know *when* they made this journey together. It could have been years before she died. It could have been while Jesus was still a student at Taxila and Magadha. If Aaron, her ancestral great grandfather, was buried in Kashmir near Moses, it is conceivable that she and Jesus visited their graves. Because Jesus is associated with living there and hosting the Fourth Buddhist Council there, it is conceivable that Mary inherited this property through

Aaron and then passed it on to Jesus as his inheritance. There is no other explanation for so many 'coincidences.' Now suddenly it makes sense that Jesus would carry Mary's bones from Ephesus, primarily to prevent them from being dug up, divided, and used as relics. Also perhaps to fulfill her own wishes to join her ancestors in Kashmir.

If Mary died at approximately age 60-65, as Dionysius states, and Jesus died at approximately age 80-100; there are many years before their deaths that could have been spent traveling, visiting family and churches, and homes of the apostles and their families. A tradition found in Clement of Alexandria (Stromat. vi, 5) and Apollonius (in Eus., Hist. eccl., I, 21) states that the Apostles were to preach twelve years in Jerusalem and Palestine before going among the nations of the world; hence, Clement and others concluded that Mary died A.D. 48 at between age 63-65.

Because there are several conflicting stories of the place of her death, I don't know how we can resolve this without thorough science and DNA studies.

Khwaja Nazir Ahmed cited accounts along the Old Silk Road that chronicled the travels of Jesus and his mother. These were written in Persian (Farsi), Arabic, Latin, Greek, and Aramaic. These references are also mentioned in *Jesus the Traveling Prophet, The Fifth Gospel* and *Jesus in Heaven on Earth* (see bibliography) and include-

Rauza Tus-Safa by Mir Muhammad
Kamil-ud-Din by Al-Thaikh-ue-Sadiq Abi-Jafar.
Tarikh-I-Azami by Khawaja Muhammad Azim of Deedamari.
Ahwarl-I-Ahrliyan-I-Parsas by Agha Mustaffa.
Masi Hindustan Mein by Mizra Ghulam Ahmad.

These accounts also mention Mother Mary and her 'resting places.'
I visited several 'resting places' of Mother Mary. If she stopped at a location for several days, they usually have a shrine to commemorate her presence there, although the dates are vague. These shrines do not exist anywhere else except at the places Mother Mary and the caravan stopped for a few days. They can be plotted on a map of the Silk Road. They believed that she could heal the sick, especially children. Even when camp was made on the outskirts of a village, word spread that they were nearby. People turned up with the sick and elderly for blessings and for healings. We don't know when these journeys were made, only that Mother Mary was alive and seen by witnesses.

The 'final' resting place of Mother Mary is on Pindi Point, the Queen's Mountain in Murree (Mari-name of the village built on a mountain that was partitioned off from Kashmir, India to be included in present day Pakistan).

Had Mary died in Jerusalem, there was greater risk that her tomb would eventually be desecrated or destroyed (whether for holy relics or for avarice) and indeed a king had requested the bone relics. Churches built above her tomb was destroyed several times and rebuilt.

A small upper church built over the site was destroyed in the Persian invasion of 614. During the following centuries, the church was destroyed and rebuilt many times, including a grand structure built by the Crusaders in 1130. Each time a structure was destroyed, it seems the crypt was left intact. The Crusader church was destroyed by Saladin in 1187, but the crypt was still respected, although Mary's body was no longer with her parents. In the second half of the 14th century, Franciscan friars rebuilt the church once more.

GOING HOME TO KASHMIR

As Roman persecution of Jews became more oppressive, by 40-42 AD, the apostles were sent to their designated lands, but remained in constant contact with one another, and with Jesus. Jesus then organized an exodus for about 100 Jewish men, women, and children, many related to the apostles.

The first mention of a Diaspora as the result of an exile is found in *Deuteronomy 28:2-*

'Thou shalt be dispersion in all kingdoms of the earth.'

The next use of the word refers to the population of Jews exiled from Israel in 607 BC by the Babylonians, and from Judea in 70 CE by the Roman Empire. This relocation, or exodus, that Jesus led could also be described as a Diaspora, since it came as the direct result of life under the emperors Tiberius, Caligula (ruled AD 31-41), who was a mad man, and Nero (AD 37-68). Persecution of Christians began in earnest under Nero.

One can surmise from the work done by Thomas in India that where ever the apostles were sent, one purpose was to create safe havens for the Jews and Christians who were escaping persecution in Judea.

Jesus and Mother Mary led the caravan on the Old Silk Road towards Taxila and Kashmir. They would pass right through the heartland of the magi and Zoroastrians who had visited Jesus at his birth. They knew Mary and she would have been their guest at palaces and great fortresses along the way.

In the book, *Jesus in Heaven on Earth* the author, Khwaja Nazir Ahmad, was able to establish the approximate Old Silk route taken by Jesus and Mother Mary to Kashmir by translating many documents that had never previously been made available in English.

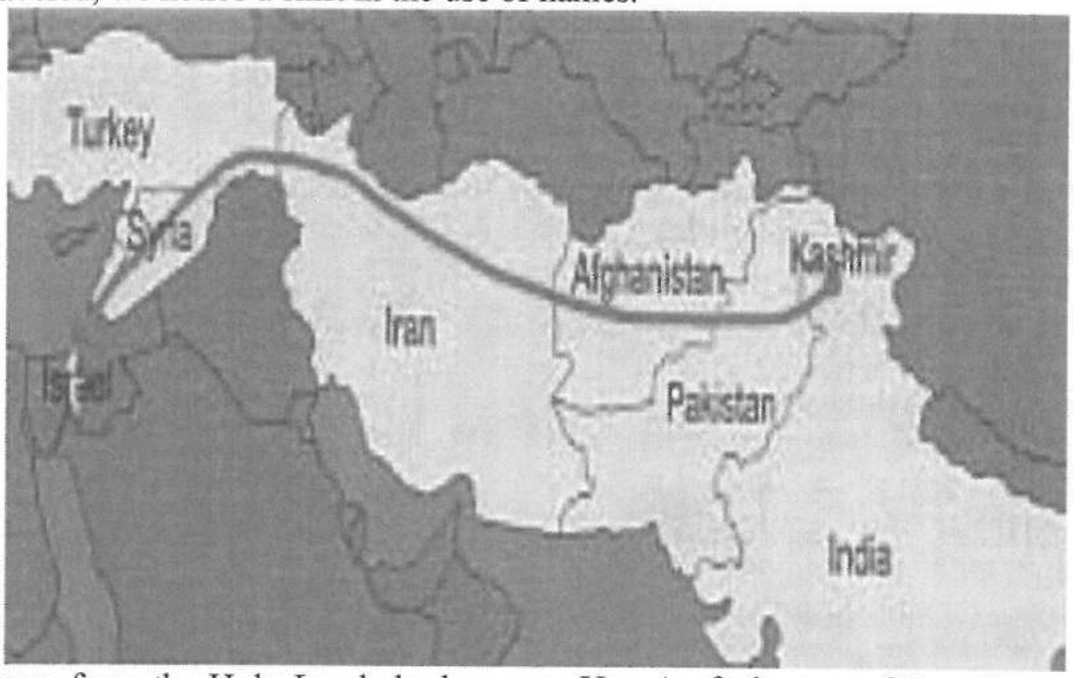
Examples from his book-

1. Agha Mustafai, *Ahwali Ahalian-I-Parsas*, p. 219.
2. *Arusta on Yuz Asaf*, in Ma'arif, vol. 34:1, p. 37 (1934).
3. Mullah Hidayat Ullah Mattu, Rishi Nama f. 692 (1176 A.H.) about Jesus having the Rod with him when he entered Kashmir.
4. *Rauza-Tus-Safa*, a huge Persian composition in 7 volumes written by Mir Khwand bin Badsha in 836 CE. It contains an account of the exodus of Mother Mary and Jesus as far as Nisibis.

5. *Ikmal-Uddin* by Al-Sheikh Said-us-Sadiq in 912 CE. The travels of Yuz Asaf and his mother are in his book, *Kamal Uddin*, also known as *Kashful Hairat.*

There are numerous apocryphal works such as *The Life of Saint Issa* and *The Aquarian Gospel* that began appearing in the late nineteenth century. However, their origins are dubious at best, usually 'channeled', and highly skeptical.

The saga that unfolds, even from the meager writings available, is not one suggesting that Jesus and his mother were escaping in fear, nor running away, nor hiding. Nor is this the story of a recluse hermit going east to seek out the wisdom of Buddhist and Brahmin priests in Himalayan monasteries and caves. Jesus visited the grave of Shem, Noah's son, where the prophet Ezekiel is also buried.[185] The graves are located near the Old Silk Route. As Jesus traveled, we notice a shift in the use of names.



Away from the Holy Lands he becomes Yuz Asaf, the son of Joseph, common, readily acceptable form, of identification. There is a grave, not far from Taxila, that has been associated with Joseph, husband of Mother Mary. 'Yuz Asaf', son of Joseph, was indeed the best form of identification for Jesus to use in that region. If he later took positions as a king, he would have discontinued using Yuz Asaf while using his official name or title.

Asaf can also be a proper name. It is used thirty eight times in 33 different Biblical verses. Some suggest that it means a 'healer of lepers.' However, there are numerous others possibilities to determine the meaning.

Mary's grave on Pindi Point is called Mari de Ashtan, 'the final resting place of Mari'. It is also called Queen's Mountain in her honor. The mountain has a stunning 360-degree view across the mountains to Kashmir. I personally believe that Mary died in Jerusalem and was laid to rest in the tomb there. I believe that her body was removed almost immediately after she was buried,

probably within a few hours, and hidden. Jesus brought her to Kashmir at some future time (perhaps years later) for final reburial. I believe this because the precedence already exists, first with the dual graves for Moses, and the disappearance of the bones of Thomas, and when Jesus' body suddenly disappeared from his Jerusalem tomb. He could have been removed almost immediately, but it required three days to revive him to consciousness.

When I visited the grave of Mother Mary, the little stone alter had been dismantled and replaced several times. No one was exactly sure where the original grave had been.

The stones were knocked down when a large communications tower was built on the site, and this tower had since been bombed several times. The site is now owned by Pakistan TV. They said if I could find the grave, I had permission to move her remains to a safer location. Many townspeople came forward and offered their help, and even their land for her new resting place. The only thing remaining was to raise enough money and interest to carry out the scientific studies on the DNA.

ASSUMPTIONS-ASCENSIONS



According to Catholic traditions, Mary's body was taken physically to heaven. Catholics call this the Assumption. At Jesus' death, two men dressed in white appeared at the empty tomb to announce that Jesus had 'risen'- ascended to heaven. (*Luke 24:1-12*).

The words 'Assumption' and 'Dormition.' applies to Mother Mary's death. Jesus and others made Ascensions. Only Mother Mary made an Assumption. It appears that Ascension is the act of rising up, presumably alive and often under one's own power. Assumption is *being raised* up, presumably after death. Hers is the only Assumption in the Bible. Enoch, Elijah, and Jesus made ascensions; that

is to say they made physical visits to the heavens. Mary's death is never mentioned in the Bible and is only known from outside sources.

GOING TO THE MOUNTAIN

Sources that mention the travels of Mary and Jesus on the Old Silk routes are to be found primarily in Persian and Farsi literature, from which all modern authors quote.[186]

Murree is a city built on a mountain in the foothills of the Himalayas. Its name Murree-Marhi-'high place'-the Queen's Mountain- was associated with Mother Mary since ancient times.

Since the building of a railway connection with Lahore, via Rawalpindi, the capital of the Punjab Province, Murree has become a popular resort for Punjab officials, and the villas and other houses erected for the accommodation of English families give it a European aspect. From rapid sudden growth the city became chaotic, overcrowded, overdeveloped and yet is still a fun place to live. While I lived there, the region was crowded with Afghan refugees fleeing the War with the Taliban. In my first attempt to find the grave, I left the hotel almost as soon as I arrived in the evening. I didn't wear my burkha because most women outside were without burkhas. I asked directions in rudimentary Urdu, not realizing that so many spoke English here. I thought someone pointed me in this direction, and so I walked through the large iron gates, waving a friendly greeting to the soldiers. Soldiers were present on nearly every village street so seeing them here was nothing unusual. Then I realized that every rifle and machine gun was pointed directly at me. The men in uniforms had baffled and confused looks on their faces. I froze still with fear. I didn't blink or twitch a finger.

I had not realized that I inadvertently entered Kashmir Point, the Pakistan Army base, not Pindi Point, the grave of Mother Mary. Someone who spoke flawless English finally appeared and took control of the situation. I explained myself and apologized, and we soon had it all sorted out.

I was embarrassingly led off the Army base as a dozen or so soldiers lowered their weapons-shaking their heads in confusion. During the ride to the correct hillock, to Pindi Point, the Major asked, "What if a Pakistani had wandered on to an American Army base? You are lucky we didn't shoot first and ask questions later." He was deeply concerned for my safety.

He said, "Between the Taliban and Northern Alliance on one side of us, cross-border terrorism and the India Line of Control on the other side, we rarely ask questions first. You were very lucky. My men are trained to shoot first and protect this place at all costs. It wouldn't be the first time they had to shoot someone trying to enter Army Headquarters to make mischief. They only hesitated because you were the first blonde American woman they ever saw on a Pakistan Army Base. You confused them." Blondes confused them? This may be the key to something important; blondes- the dumber the better-

could be the ultimate weapons of mass confusion, and ultimate survival. That was good to know. I do dumb blonde very well. It comes naturally.

Humor aside, I have great respect for the Pakistan Army. Whenever our paths crossed, and it was frequent (this is a key military defense town) they were polite and enjoyable companions, often inviting me home to meet their families, and always concerned for the dazed blonde stumbling clumsily through history under their watchful eyes.

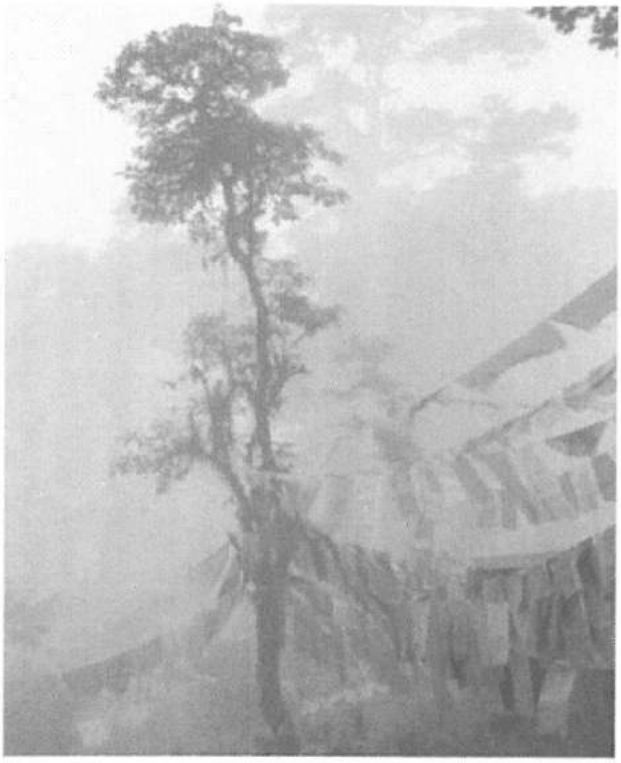
Thanks to the legacy of the British Empire in India, a beautiful form of English is still taught and spoken in the region. English became common language during the overseas possessions and trading posts established by England between the late 16th and early 18th centuries. At its height, it was the largest empire in history and, for over a century, was the foremost global power. By 1922 the British Empire held sway over about 458 million people, one-fifth of the world's population at the time. The empire covered more than 33,700,000 km2 (13,012,000 sq mi), almost a quarter of the Earth's total land area. As a result, its political, legal, linguistic and cultural legacy is widespread.

There are three Christian schools in Murree, Pakistan (and throughout the country) that provide outstanding education including excellent English. Benazir Bhutto was a Pakistani politician and stateswoman who served as the 11th Prime Minister of Pakistan-twice! She had attended the Jesus and Mary Convent in Murree (she was assassinated in Rawalpindi in 2007.[187]) The nearby Murree Christian School was bombed in 2002 and six people were killed. For all the good these schools do, they are often primary targets of bombings.

The Himalaya Mountains are stunning, and a good choice for remote graves. Here at altitudes of 6,000 feet, thick pine forests grow on the steep, almost vertical foothills of the lower Himalayas. There are still wild leopards here. I traveled through dense pine forests-watching the forest monkeys watching me- trying to imagine Jesus on these trails with Mother Mary. Pindi Point is overcrowded and over-developed now. But long ago it was a sacred remote mountain. There are places where I could walk that still have an old growth of trees, reminder of how it was here in the past.

At altitudes between 5,000 and 15,000 feet (4,572 m) one puts aside images of a humble barefoot prophet in the deserts of Sinai clad only in a simple white robe. Jesus needed to be healthy, tough and strong to make these treks through the Himalayas. He most surely traveled with horses to ride and donkeys to carry blankets, pots, and food on long journeys.

Jesus would have been fully clothed for protection against the elements, sturdy boots tied up high, a woolen pashima scarf wrapped warmly 'round his head and neck.



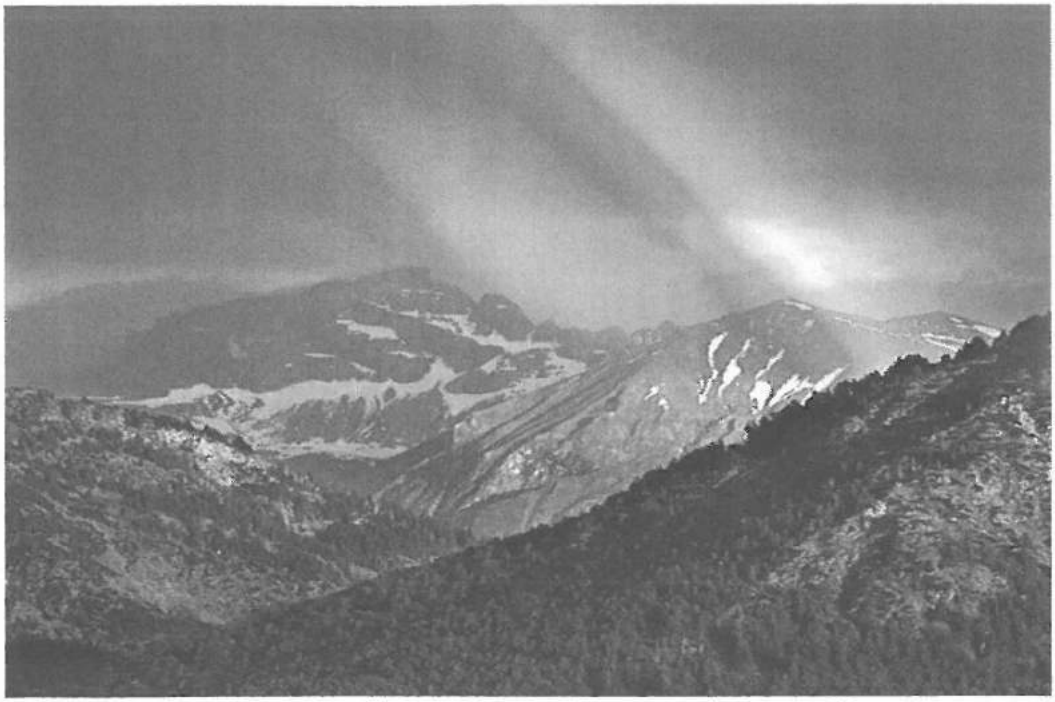
Prayer flags in the misty mountains at Dochulu Pass, Bhutan. Photo by Keren Su.

Pashima, called cashmere in the west, is made from the fine hair of Himalayan mountain goats. Six times finer than human hair and warmer than sheep's wool, it appears in written texts since 3rd century BC., when it was already a prized trade item. The fabrics, often richly embroidered and colorful, are mentioned in old Hindu epics and found in ancient Egyptian tombs. Pashmina is the Persian (Farsi) word 'pashim' meaning 'soft and silky'. It was so highly prized and sought after in the ancient world that Mogul emperor king Akbar (1542-1605) presented a gift of Kashmir jamawar (jam-robe/war-yards) to the Queen of England (during the Shakespearean era.) I wore one wrapped around me under my burkha when I was in the mountains on cold days.

It is a steep and slippery climb through the dark forest. Footsteps and noise are muffled by the deep layers of pine needles fallen from the trees. It is a deafening silence. Birds don't sing here. Sounds attract the attention of hungry hawks and owls lurking in the shadows.

The transition from the deeply shaded silent forest on the slopes to the dazzling sunlit meadow at the top is a shock to the senses. So much green! So much blue! The colors were incredible. One could see the mountains stretched out for miles in all directions. The birds sang in profusion, celebrating the sunlight. Breezes flow around the body like ocean waves gently rocking every atom in to peace. Even the air at these altitudes is different. One can feel the changes immediately. Rainbows come and go, dancing across the snows of the Himalayas.

I wanted to stay here forever. It had that kind of pull on me. The thought of returning to a world of shopping malls and noise and people was insignificant compared to the energies felt in these mountains. If the politics and religious sentiments here were a tad more tolerant and less rigid and fundamentalist, I would have stayed forever. I understood why Jesus and Mother Mary would have chosen this as a final resting place.



Pilgrims have trudged up this mountain for centuries to offer prayers at the little stone alter believed to mark the final resting place of Mother Mary. Locals came here to pray for more milk from the cow, or to heal a sick child. They lit candles and left pieces of fabric tied to bushes or twigs pushed into the ground. The prayers are carried on the wind to the universe for the good of all mankind. Legends say that strange lights appeared on the meadow at night, and a huge mountain lion was often seen guarding her grave and sweeping leaves and twigs away with his tail.

Mr. Latif Kashmiri, former head of the local municipal library in Murree, showed me a color film made in the 1900's. It was taken on the meadow at the summit, before any of the present buildings blocked the view and desecrated the gravesite entirely.

There is the lingering legend of another ancient grave in this region. This legend speaks of the stoic donkey that traveled all the way from the Holy Land with Jesus and pulled Mother Mary up the mountain in a cart.

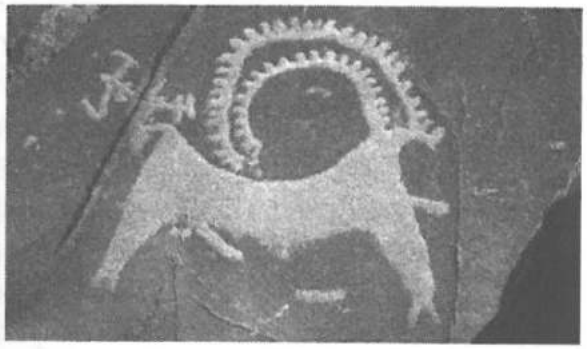
Was Mother Mary still alive? Or was the donkey hauling her bones wrapped in linens? It's unclear. One thing is certain, that the donkey died soon after this journey to Murree, and Jesus buried the donkey in an Egyptian custom, with full honors. Just a few centuries earlier, Alexander the Great had buried his beloved champion horse, Beaucephalus nearby in a similar manner.

Some say the legend was made up by a local businessman to attract tourists, but this makes no sense considering local religious beliefs. The ten year war with Russia was just ending, and now there was this increase in Taliban fundamentalism to contend with. Someone suggested that the donkey's grave was on the road connecting Muzzafarabad to Abbottabad. Roads here are the cliff-hanging, nail biting single lane affairs that were blasted out

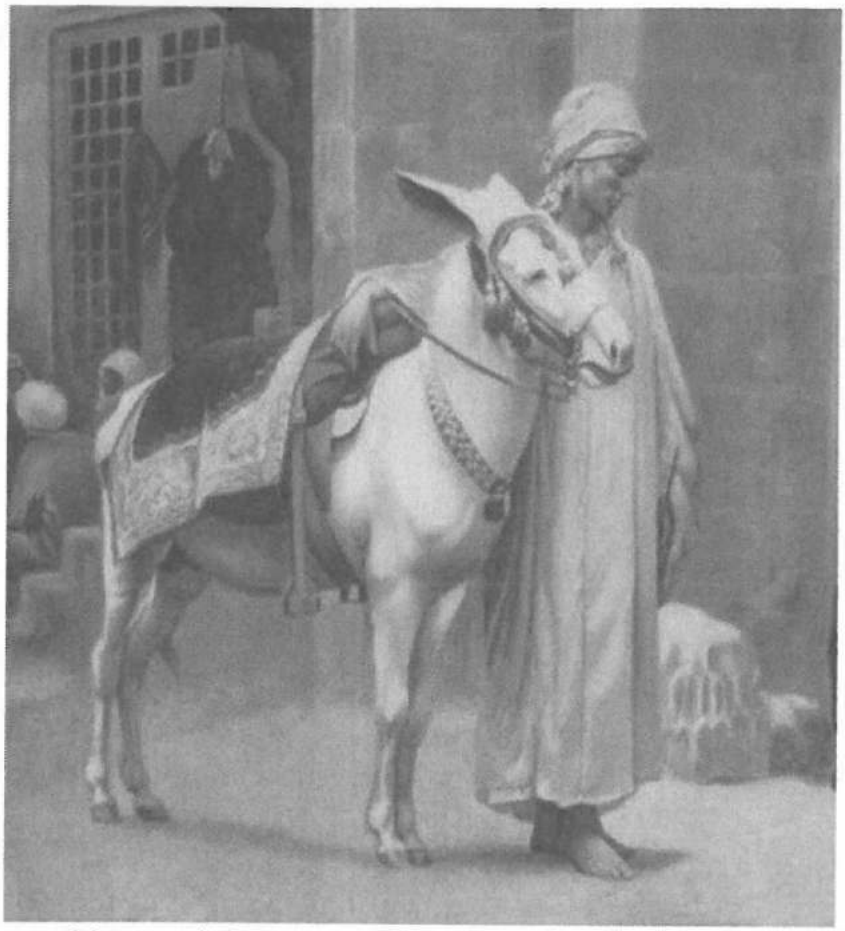
along the edges of mountains. All of this was originally part of Kashmir, and is still called Kashmir, but is now separated from India and is disputed territory. Thus one part is designated IOK (India Occupied Kashmir) and the other is POK (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir).

The area above Murree is famous for being the place where Osama bin Laden was shot and killed. But it is also the center for arts and crafts, excellent schools and universities (science and engineering colleges) several top rated teaching hospitals, and the finest Army schools. There are 21 hospitals and medical complexes that exceed many found in western countries. It's a respectable middle-class area. Any westerner would feel completely at home living here. Where the India side remains poorly developed and somewhat impoverished, the Pakistan side is thriving, due in part to the huge access to American aid dollars.

The Karakoram Highway begins here. This is the far eastern leg of the Old Silk Road and extends to Kashgar and then across China. Through endless desert, seemingly insurmountable mountains, countless trading towns and long-forgotten villages, the 4,030-mile-long trail meanders from Istanbul, Turkey to Beijing, China. Marco Polo travelled for 24 years to complete his legendary journey. There are magnificent rivers, lakes, and glaciers in the Pakistan part of the KKH, and more than 50,000 pieces of rock art and petroglyphs all along the highway. The carvings were left by invaders, traders and pilgrims who passed along the trade route, and by a few recent graffiti artists. The earliest date back to between 5000 BC and 1000 BC, some showing single animals, triangular men and hunting scenes in which the animals are larger than the hunters. These carvings were pecked into the rock with stone tools and are covered with a thick patina that yields their age.



The entire stretch of road is closed during the heavy snowfalls of winter. In many places, the road is mountainous, too narrow, too dangerous, but always very scenic. This road connects Murree and Srinagar and the graves of Jesus and Mother Mary. The road is now guarded by Army checkpoints on both sides of the border. Crossing from the Pakistan side to the India side is impractical and often blocked although many travel back and forth regularly on secret trails at any time of the year.



Try as we could, examining every little pile of rocks for signs, ask who we may, trekking by foot and horse on forested mountain paths, we could not locate the grave of Jesus' donkey. Those who knew it best had either died or moved away. If the grave ever existed at all, the rocks piled 'just so' near the edge of the ancient road must have tumbled down during one of the frequent earthquakes here. In October 2005 Abbottabad was devastated by a great earthquake. More than 80,000 people were killed. Many of the most ancient historic buildings were lost.

The story of the grave of Jesus' donkey is an urban legend now, just another midnight ghost glimpsed through gusts of wind on remote dusty trails of the Old Silk Road. You can see them everywhere, in the cities, in the mountains, these faithful little donkeys toiling away year after year, carrying Herculean burdens for their Masters, often under cruel conditions.

The war with the Taliban was full on. Afghanistan was a basket case, a place to be avoided. The poverty and suffering, the senseless deaths and daily fears were numbing. The U.S. State Department kept issuing alerts and warnings to Americans to get out of the region. They did. Other than those here in an official Government capacity, I never saw another foreign soul for months at a time. I should have left too, but the fear of never being able to return, of visa and financial constraints, of missed opportunity to discover

something new and relevant kept me searching for more pieces to the puzzles. It wasn't about 'me' anymore. The journey seemed to take on a life of its own, and I was merely a follower of leads, information, intuition and hunches. 'Me' was gone since long ago- replaced by this mad woman with a single-minded purpose to uncover the real Jesus no matter what.

I slipped through the system quietly, never drawing attention to myself. I helped at refugee camps from time to time, but never stayed too long or did too much. All refugee camps are a tragedy. Just the act of relieving oneself was a strategic and health-defying nightmare. Owning a roll of toilet paper was a luxury one didn't flash too obviously while walking to the bush or the behind the sand dune to relieve oneself. Privacy at such moments was hard to come by. I severely limited the water I drank to barely a few sips per day.

Families that had no tents resorted to digging holes into sides of dirt hills as shelter for women and children against the rain and cold. They might create a wall of cardboard to help lock out wind and cold. Sickness, robbery, rape and brutality were constant. Several times a week, someone usually waited outside my door to ask for just ten or twenty rupees to buy rice or medicine. One U.S. dollar is equivalent to over 100 Pakistan rupees. They were asking for mere pennies by American standards. Twenty dollars could feed a family of four here for a month.

In return for what little I could offer, I had safe passage through remote mountainous regions where no sane normal single American woman would dare go alone. Every tribal village was like the old wild west of America. Men were their own judge, jury and executioner. I had families, translators, guides, information, protection, a meal of rice, a warm safe place to sleep, all kindly provided by someone's mother, sister or wife. We had relationships based on trust. One's life depended upon never crossing the lines of respect and propriety demanded of women here, never breaking any trust in word or in deed. Boundaries had to be set and maintained. Sometimes a man would try to go too far with me, unsure how I would respond but willing to test the limits. I usually had a few highly elaborate stories about me being an untouchable 'holy person' on a jihad for Allah. This quickly restored the balance of power, instilled the fear of Allah and divine retribution, and kept me safe. My secret weapon of mass confusion was working!

I had 'treasure maps' of the graves, maps scribbled with field notes that I kept folded in little plastic bags hidden in the specially made hem of my burkha. One day they were discovered and seized by border guards who knew no English but suspected maps could be "an aid to the enemy." I offered bribes. I begged. I wept, I implored, but my maps, my notes, my years of work and memories were taken from me, and not even the gift of an entire carton of cigarettes could get them back.

I followed legends and ancient manuscripts translated for me by librarians reading Greek, Latin, Farsi, Urdu, Arabic, Brahmi, Aramaic and Sanskrit. I

tried to be invisible, unimportant, poor, not worthy. I dressed humbly. I had no jewelry or cell phones or computers. I had no opinions, no affiliations, no reason to be attacked or beheaded, raped or imprisoned.

A Taliban was just another acquaintance on my journey, just another religious point of view. As long as I respected them and deferred to them, they respected me. Once in a while a really handsome, well-spoken Brigadier General or local businessman or widower would almost-*almost*-make me nostalgic for a real home, gardens, fragrant kitchens filled with family and friends, hot showers, sanitary flush toilets, safe warm beds, clean sheets, and a man who would hold the door for me, not compel me to remain five steps behind with the mules. Sometimes I attended Embassy dinners with them. There I was being escorted by a handsome intelligent man, feeling elegant in my new shalwar-kameez, but always in a hurry to get back to the mountain trails, to the simpler life.

Years later I sometimes met these same people in Addis Ababa or Cairo, London, New York or Washington. Shalwar-kameez and Army khakis were gone. Now they looked dashing and very successful in their expensive custom tailored suits and silk ties. For some, Army life, war, chaos, and grant money from abroad was very rewarding.

I had no affiliations during those years. I was not a journalist, nurse, teacher or NGO- nothing that connected me with a cause, a government or a belief system other than my Red Cross-Red Crescent training. Although my First-Aid training was minimal compared with most others, it was held in high regard by locals.

My favorite home team player was Ahmad Shah Massoud (1953-2001). He was killed by a suicide bomber just 2 days before the 9-11 attacks in America. I cried secretly in my room.

Daniel Pearl (1963-2002) an American Jewish reporter working in Delhi was kidnapped in Karachi (Jan. 23, 2002) and killed one week later. His botched beheading had to be interrupted half-way while the cameraman made adjustments. Swords went out of vogue long ago. No one walks the streets of Baghdad or Peshawar or Karachi wielding scimitars these days. Short sharp kitchen knives are the tool for the job. Beheadings done this way are not meant to be quick or painless. It takes time and effort to hog-tie a human, hold him down, and saw his head off with a short knife. It's agonizingly cruel.

I had friends in Karachi. I considered returning there to offer help to get the release of Daniel Pearl by raising ransom money. I contacted my family in America to discuss how much we could raise in a few hours, and how best to transfer the funds. In hindsight, I realize this would *not* have helped to save Daniel Pearl. In his case, once his Jewishness was established, it was not about the money.

His remains were found three months later outside Karachi. They had tied him and held him down. He was beheaded slowly with a short kitchen knife.

The whole event was filmed. His very last, dying words were an affirmation of his Jewish faith. If I was ever taken prisoner, I would beg, plead, and offer anything to be dispatched quickly with a bullet. Trembling with- I don't know what I felt inside of me- it was such a huge struggle of emotions... I cried secretly again, and said a little prayer for his soul. Then I kept it all inside never telling anyone.

I was concerned that my blessings from the tribal chiefs would eventually wear thin with the Taliban or the ISI and RAW (Research and Analysis Wing is India's intelligence agency, like the CIA in America, or Mossad in Israel.) As insignificant as I was in this part of the world, everyone seemed to know a lot about me and about how I spent every moment of every day.

The violence escalated. We had news blackouts. Everyone had a story or heard a rumor. The camel wireless carried information that never appeared in print. Years later when Osama bin Laden was discovered and killed in Abottabad, I now realize just how incredible was the intelligence and information carried by the camel wireless. It seems light years ahead of Government intelligence agencies.

Some days the rickshaw drivers refused to go near troubled areas. Some days bombs and guns were heard on the next street as we snuck off in a different direction, hoping it was the right choice. Some days I was rushed out the back door and through alleys as mobs armed with sticks and bricks rampaged through the streets. I was hidden on the floor behind boxes, dirty rags and sacks thrown over me for hours until trouble ended and I could get away without being noticed.

During my journey to Aaron's grave, my escort and translator, Bashir Dunoo, didn't duck and run fast enough during a riot. He was hit in the head with a flying brick. We narrowly escaped more serious injury from a local mob hell bent on terrifying shop keepers and bus drivers, or throwing acid in the faces of unveiled women. I rehearsed again and again in my mind how I would remain calm and brave if my end should come in some violent way too. It was just a mental rehearsal. I'm glad that I was never put to the test.

A busload of tourists was attacked and killed at Kaluchak. Mumbai, (2008) a favorite terrorist target that had at least two major attacks every year. Hospitals, schools and churches were attacked and mosques destroyed. Sunnis were still attacking Shias in a bitter 1500 year old war. Everyone attacked Ahmaddis. Religious differences are a life and death matter on a daily basis. The Afghan war raged on. Violence, revenge killings, religious killings, hate killings, ransom killings, killing took place all around me and these 'lesser' jihads (non-soldier- non-combat killings) took a larger death toll than combatants in war. The death toll among Kashmir civilians was ten times higher than dead and wounded military combatants in Afghanistan. During declared war involving coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, incidents that claimed

civilian lives, the weapon with the highest body count per incident was suicide bombings through Al Quaida and Taliban.

I had no idea how news was being presented in the west during these years. I did not fully understand how four planes were hijacked on 9-11 until years later when I returned to the States and viewed documentaries on TV. I watched them over and over again in horror, stunned, shaking with emotions that welled up from deep within. I looked for faces I knew in the crowds, for shops where I once sat to eat, tent cities I visited, and children I played with. I felt unfinished, incomplete, disconnected from life in America, painfully aware that I failed. I wanted to return. I failed Mother Mary by not locating her grave. I did not keep my Christmas promises to Yuz Asaf to get his DNA. This is a book about failing. Who writes books about failing? I do, because some will come after me, and this information will be helpful to a new generation of seekers. I could not keep the promises I made to ghosts of the Old Silk Road, but someday, others *will* succeed.

In 1898 the British colonial army built a defense tower immediately next to the stone monument in Murree that marked Mary's grave. They knocked the stones down, mocking the superstitions that this may be the final resting place of Mother Mary. Locals saved the stones and tried to rebuild the alter some time later.

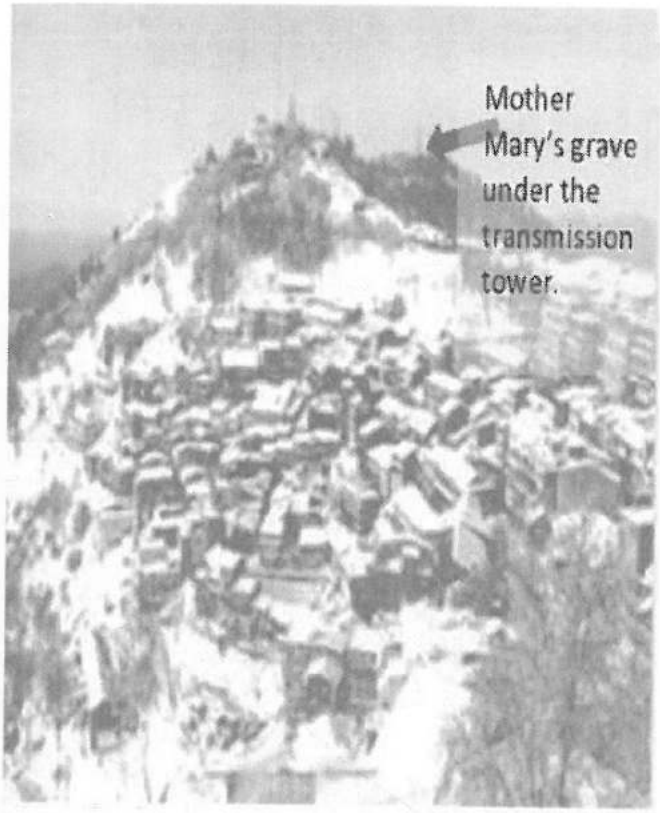
Then, in 1917, the grave was partly torn down again at the order of a Captain Richardson. Visitors and pilgrims from afar had to remain at a distance from this military zone. The pile of stones kept getting moved and the exact location of the grave became a blurred memory. Loud cries of protest from the population saved the pile of stones, or at least some of them. These events are recorded in the archives of the local Murree administration, dated July 30, 1917. Old photos of the grave in various stages of shambles also appear in the book 'Jesus in Heaven on Earth', pp371-372. Eventually a few remaining stones were piled under the transmission tower, and that is their location to this day. I see more recent photos of her Murree grave, and note if my yellow silk roses are still there. They lasted for many years, and I was proud of that.

The first time I saw this grave of barbed wire and rock piles was a shock, an enormous disappointment. I was in search of the holiest mother figure in the whole world, object of adoration to billions of people, miracle worker, saint, the girl who gave birth to one of the greatest religious leaders of all time, who held Christ's broken body in her arms after the crucifixion … is this her final ending? Bombed, desecrated, and forgotten on a mountain in the foothills of the Himalayas…it's hard for anyone to get these images into, or out of their heads. "What happened here, Mary, what *really* happened?"

During armed conflicts with India, this area becomes a prime military target. The legs of the transmission tower have been bombed several times as acts of terrorism. The site is now owned by Pakistan TV in Islamabad. I didn't

want to believe this could be the final resting place for Mother Mary. Among my staunchest helpers and supporters was Dr. Ahmad Hassan Dani. He tutored me, advised and guided me. Through him, I obtained the necessary paperwork from the Archaeology Department in Karachi. [188] No sooner had we begun organizing the project, had the permits, and were eager to start, then we were hit by financial constraints. Suddenly I was expected to pay for the added travels back and forth between cities, the permits, the gravediggers, the use of a GPR machine, the costly ancient DNA lab tests at Oxford University. The tab for all this research skyrocketed. My income did not and that is why I did not get further along with this Project.

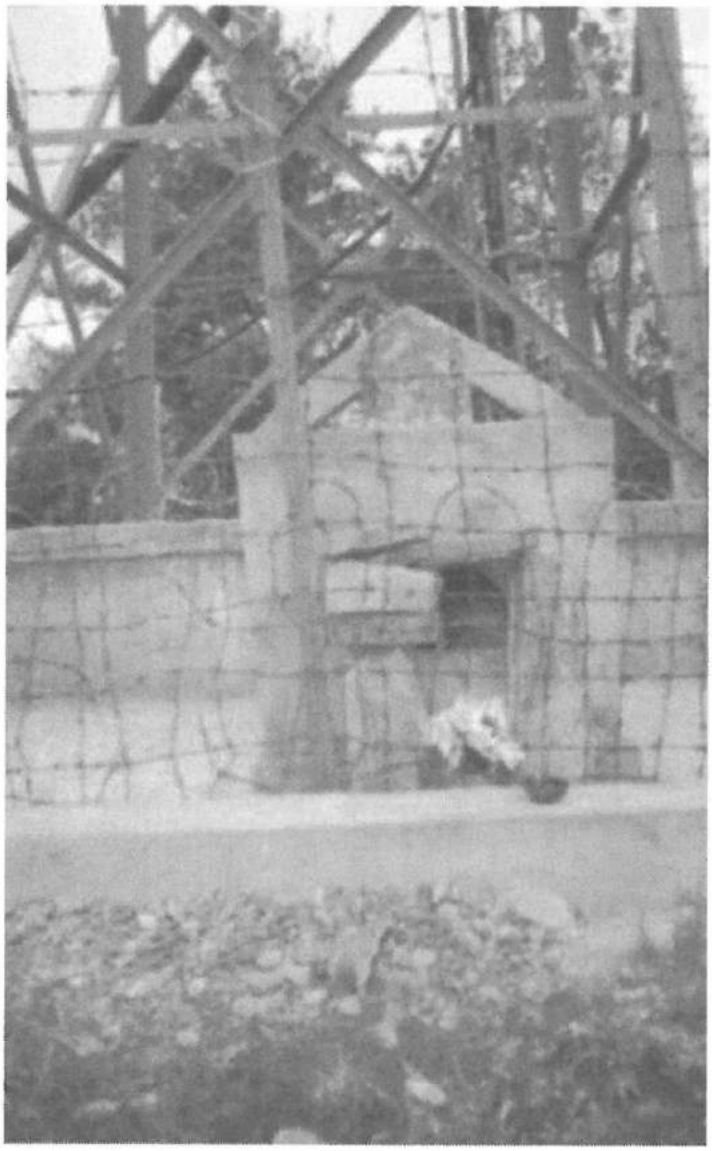
Although the entire community of Murree warmly supported the project and helped me in every way possible, they expected me to dig deep into the secret pockets of my burkha, my Asian ATM machine, but the pockets were not deep enough. The work remains incomplete, and the final resting place of Mother Mary, like the grave of Jesus' donkey, are little more than a pile of rocks and rumors.



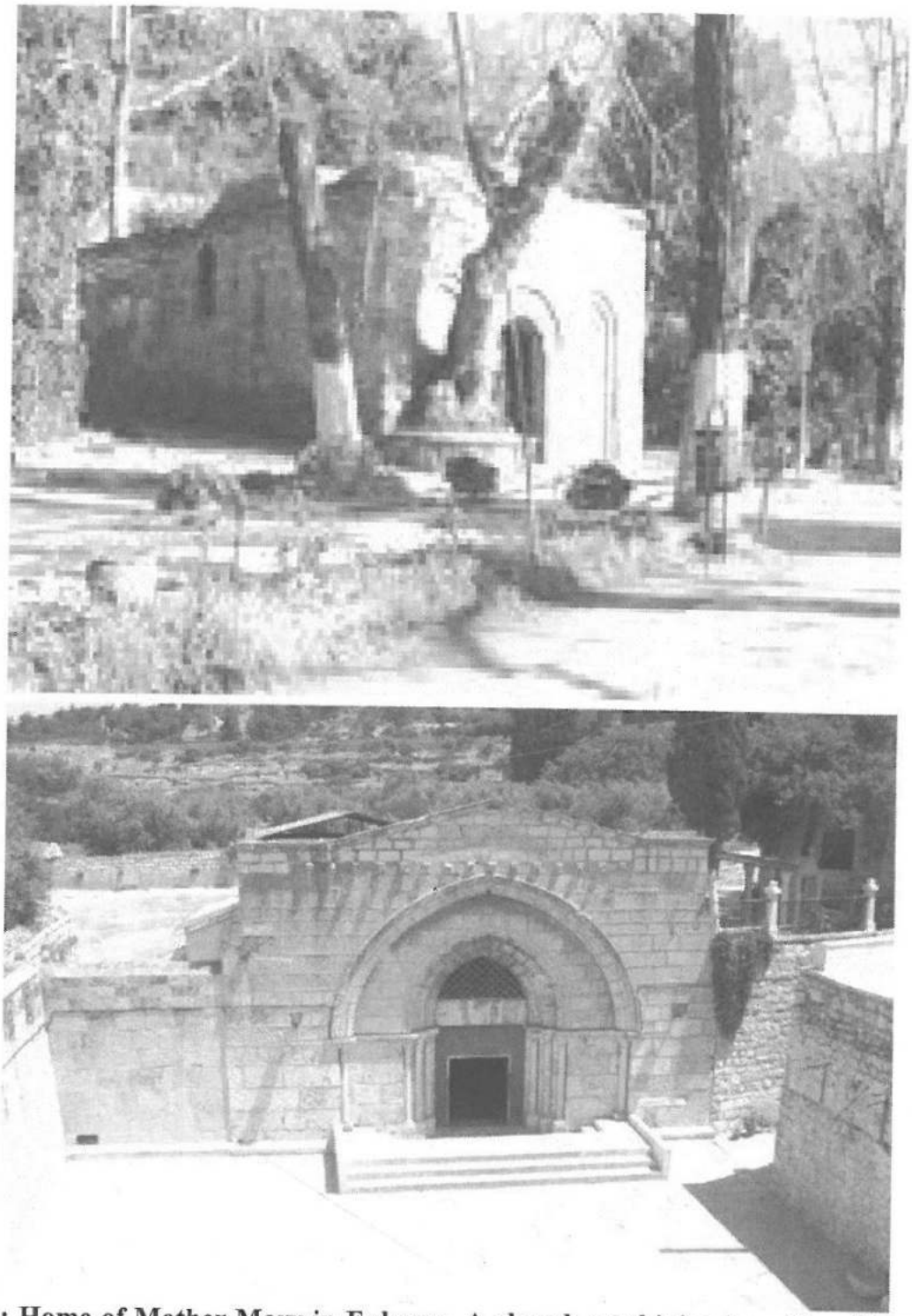
Kashmir Point and Pindi Point, Murree, Pakistan. When Alexander the Great attacked here in 326 BCE, this area was ruled from Taxila, and no permanent settlement existed. During British rule, the area developed rapidly and began to resemble a quaint British village. Several large churches, a hospital, schools, infirmaries for sick soldiers, numerous shops and British cemeteries. The author's home was among the trees on the lower right.



Church of the Holy Sepulcher of Saint Mary (Tomb of the Virgin Mary) and the graves of Joachim, her father, and Anna, her mother in the crypt under the Church. The site has been completely enclosed in glass for protection. Can any DNA be recovered from this site?



Remains of the grave of Mother Mary on Pindi Point, in Murree Pakistan. A few of the original stones now piled under the transmission tower and surrounded by wire fencing. One of the stones was painted red by a soldier for unknown reasons. Author placed the yellow silk roses there, and they remained for several years.



Top: Home of Mother Mary in Ephesus. A church combining her alleged house and grave were built over the site in the 4th century AD. Bottom: Near Mount of Olives, alleged grave for Mother Mary and her parents. It has been destroyed and rebuilt several times.



'Behold thy Mother... .'

' The Pieta by Michelangelo (1499) St. Peter's Basilica.



Postage Stamp of India, circa 1972

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us...what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal. ~Albert Pike

CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA-HOW APOSTLES SPREAD THE FAITH

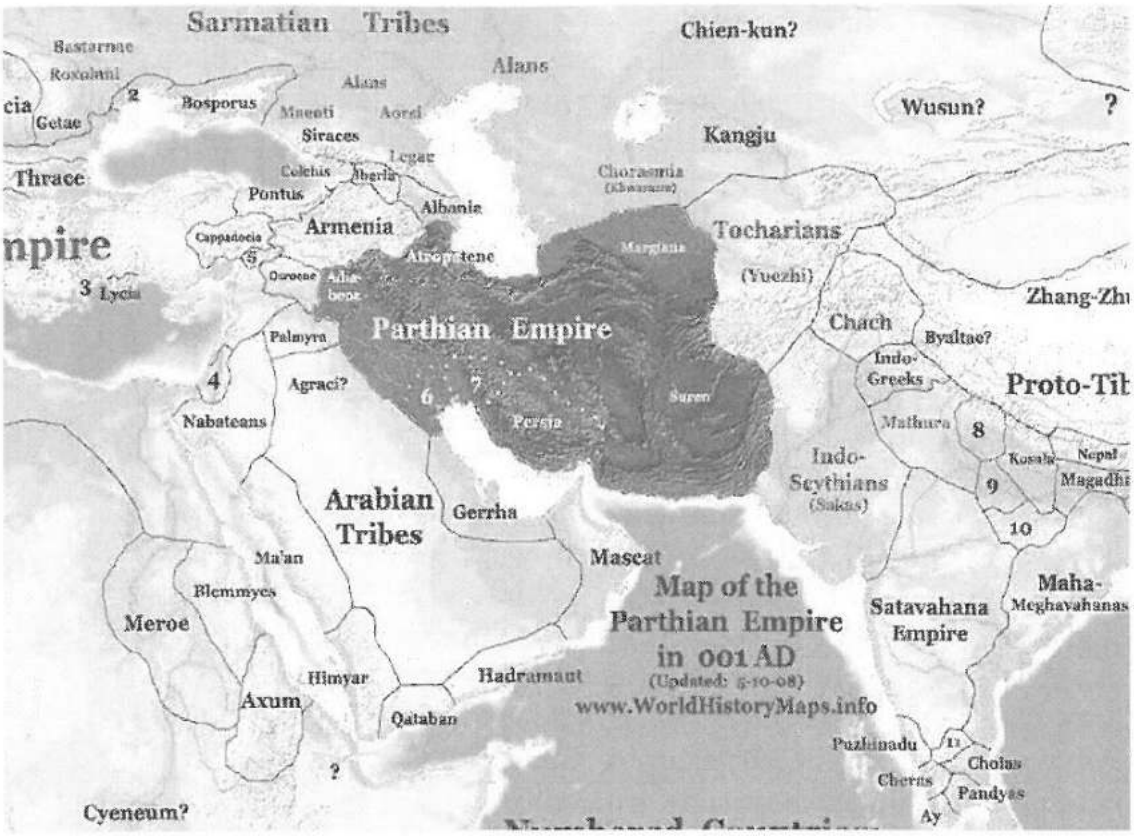
If Jesus survived crucifixion and lived in Kashmir, then he and Thomas were in India at the same time. Therefor the life of Thomas in India is worthy of closer inspection because all that Thomas accomplished during this period must have been influenced by Jesus somewhere in the nearby background.

When one takes the time to contemplate the lives and journeys of the apostles, one realizes that Christianity was, at least in the first few centuries, more of an Asian religion before it was European. Christians in the East established a church that was independent from, yet equal to, the church established by the patriarchs of Rome and Constantinople. It is the apostle Thomas who spearheaded the church's expansion eastward.

As long as the Roman emperors considered the Christians as enemies of Rome, the Persian emperors were inclined to consider them as friends of Persia. It was not until after Constantine's death in AD 337 that the Christians began to be relentlessly targeted and persecuted in the East.

The foresight and planning of Jesus took into consideration what constituted success, and what constituted failure for Gautama Buddha's prior spread of his new faith, Buddhism. Gautama had sent his monks as far as Alexandria and Rome to gain supporters for his new faith (as mentioned by Clement of Alexandria). Buddha found patronage in the ruler of Magadha, the emperor Bimbisara. The emperor accepted Buddhism as his personal faith and allowed the establishment of many Buddhist viharas. The support (and conversion) of kings like Ashoka proved the best way to reach the most people. Buddhism was already well-known in the west by the time that Christ was born. The major difference is that Buddhism lacked a central 'command and control' center. There was no leader appointed after Gautama died. In recent times, the Dalai Lama has filled this role for most Buddhists.[189] Thus if Thomas converted just one king at a time, it was the same as though he had converted ten thousand village people.

Crosses were a symbol of Christianity as early as 40 years after the crucifixion. Places of Christian worship with a cross and alter were uncovered in Pompeii, buried there when Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD. Christianity spread rapidly because the rulers accepted it rapidly. Thus it needed a hierarchy of organization. The First Council of Jerusalem was convened by James in 49 CE. Among the main issues to be decided upon were Baptism and circumcision. The hierarchy of leadership for the new churches was also established, and this hierarchy was practiced by Thomas throughout India. The Fourth Buddhist Council, convened by Kanishka in 79AD[190], was presided over by Jesus at the home of his ancestor- grandfather, Aaron (which will be taken up again later in this book). At this council, Buddhists then adopted and followed that hierarchy established by the previous Jewish Christians 30 years earlier in 49 AD.



Parthian Empire, also called Gandahar (Kandahar) at time of Christ encompassed modern Iran, Afghanistan, Kashmir and northern India. Their prime locations controlled Old Silk Road trade and global information. Herodotus wrote about an enormous city, Gelonus, as capitol of the Benjamites. 'The Budini (Benoni-Benjamin) are a large and powerful nation: they have bright blue and grey eyes, and bright red hair. Here are temples built in honor of the Grecian gods, and adorned after the Greek fashion.' Some scholars believe the Pashtuns originated with Pathans-Parthians. In Sanskrit Pakhtun either means "back of the mountains", or robust men. This is close to the description given by Moses to the tribe of Gad when he anticipated his final burial in their lands. Their titles on coins often said 'king of kings'. Sir Akbar Khan writes in "*The Corrigendum of an Historic Fact*" that in 570 BC, the King of Babul Bukht Nasir ordered the two grandsons of Afghana, Armia and Burkhia, to settle the Bin Yamin (Binyamin- Tribe of Benjamin) in his kingdom. Benjamin was youngest son of Jacob. 'They brought their old grandfather to the hills of Herat and started living there.' From this region the magi, who were Parthian and Sythian (Sakya) kings, journeyed to find Jesus and appoint him as king somewhere within this realm. At this time, before Islam, most Arabian tribes were still Jewish and Zoroastrians. Many converted to Christianity and these Christians were well known to Muhammad.

Buddhism and Christianity were blending and influencing one another since the very inception of Christianity, and Christianity may be the result of Jesus introducing Buddhist reforms and ideas into ultra-orthodox Judaism, although at no time did Jesus ever renounce his Jewish faith. Followers of Christ were not called Christians until the founding of the church at Antioch of Syria (Acts 11:26). In the Bible, according to Acts 11:19-26, the Christian community at Antioch began when Christians-scattered from Jerusalem because of persecution- then fled to Antioch. They were joined by Christians from Cyprus and Cyrene. Very quickly Christian communities appeared throughout the whole of Central Asia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India (especially Kashmir and Taxila) and Tibet by the second century.

The early church in India organized missions, established schools and monasteries, and generally paralleled the churches in the West.

Other apostles came to India, including Bartholomew (Nathaniel). He briefly settled on the Bombay/Mumbai coast, a familiar trade port visited by Solomon's navy and Hiram Abiff. [191] While visiting Armenia, he was crucified upside down. A monastery was later built over the place of his death. Eusebius, in his *Church History*, confirms the ministry of Bartholomew and adds an eyewitness account. It is said he was killed because he converted Polymius, the king of Armenia, to Christianity. Stages, Polymius' brother, became angry and consequently ordered Bartholomew's execution.[192] Regardless this fateful start, in 301 AD Armenia was the first country to adopt Christianity as its official State religion. The Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church (sometimes called the Gregorian Church) traces its origins to the missions of Bartholomew and Thaddeus in the 1st century.

Monasteries like the Julian monastery at Taxila served as central rally points for the apostles. Peter, the designated Bishop, was the first leader of the early church outside of Asia. His title passed down and others assumed his role. However it was always a spiritual role completely separated from politics.

The Franks, especially between 756 and 857, began supporting bishops in mutually beneficial pacts. Kings gave huge land grants to the churches. Mutual support came through Government funding in exchange for their loyalty. Gifts of perpetual sainthood were bestowed on wealthy benefactors of the church.

My ancestral great grandmother, wife of King Clovis, was Queen Clotilde (475–545) [193] who donated substantially to the early Church in Europe.

By converting her husband Clovis to Catholicism, she changed the destiny of Europe forever. Her DNA could be included in the DNA Project and compared with thousands of her descendants living today. The Catholic Church named her the patron saint of widows, orphans, and children in danger, somewhat reminiscent of 'Order of the Magdalenes'. Eventually the Church listed over 10,000 saints.[194] A saint is defined as someone who has

lived a heroic life, is notable for holiness, and has met the requirement of two miracles attributed to them. It is a place of honor and a form of recognition by the Church, *not* an invitation to idol worship. Bartholomew, Thomas, and most apostles have been canonized as saints.

As some religions became official State religions, the lines between church and state blurred. By the Second Persian Empire (226), there were bishops of the Church of the East in northwest India, Afghanistan and Baluchistan, with laymen and clergy alike engaging in missionary activity[195]. Because of Jesus' foresight in the early years, and his careful attention to training the apostles before sending them out into the world, Christianity was so well organized that, after the death of Agrippa in 44 AD, just ten years or so after the crucifixion, there was a major famine in Judea, and the apostles were able to rally aid and relief for the famine-stricken Christians [196] (*Acts 12:1-2,* mentions the death of John, brother of James during this famine).



CLOTILDE

BROTHERS OF JESUS

Manuscripts survived outside the Bible that give us a better understanding of Thomas' relationship to Jesus (*Acts of Thomas*, *Infancy Gospels,* and numerous others) yet not once does Thomas or any Gospel author call Jesus 'my brother' or refer to Mary as 'his' mother, 'their' mother, or 'our' mother. The plural is never used by anyone. In fact, of all the apostles who have left us writings, none of them has claimed that Mary is 'their' mother, even though they are called 'brothers' of Jesus in the *Bible*. Jesus had 'brothers and sisters' as reported in Mark 6:3 and Matthew 13:55-56. The canonical Gospels name four brothers, James, Joseph (Joses), Judas and Simon. Only James is known to us, and he never referred to Jesus as his brother, nor Mary as his mother. Few figures in Christianity are as important and yet as mysterious as James the Just, the 'brother' of Jesus. He was apparently not a follower of Jesus during his lifetime, yet after his death and resurrection we suddenly find James as head of the church at Jerusalem, often called by his name alone, without accompanying identifier.

In Pakistan, my neighbor, a teacher from Peshawar, brought me to her village and introduced me to at least 20 of her brothers. She explained that this is common among cousins and relatives of the same clan and village,

although they are not brothers and sisters in the biological way. This verbiage was also in use during Jesus' lifetime and continues in modern times.

In the *Book of Thomas the Contender*, part of the Nag Hammadi library, Jesus said to Thomas: "Now, since it has been said that you are my twin and true companion, examine yourself..." *It has been said*... it is not fact.

The existence of any other brothers of Jesus is debated, interpretation of texts is variable. Interpretation of the phrase "brother of the Lord" and similar phrases is divided between those who interpret the phrase literally and those (Catholics, Eastern Orthodox and some Protestants) who presuppose the perpetual virginity of Mary and therefore do not also accept an absolutely literal interpretation. After the birth of Jesus and his first five years, Joseph is never mentioned again in the Bible. At the crucifixion, no disciples, or brethren were identified as present at the cross.

John 19:25-

> 'Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.'

Origen of Alexandria (185-254 CE) mentions that the *Book of James* and the *Gospel of Peter* stated that the 'brethren of the Lord' were actually elder sons of Joseph by a former wife.[197] This is the first mention that we have of Jesus' 'brothers' not born of Mary, and this has been recorded in a book no older than the early second century. The author, James, introduces himself merely as "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" without invoking a family relationship to Jesus or to Mother Mary. In all that we know of Thomas (also known as Jude/Judas) and the close relationship between himself and Jesus, and all of the writings from Thomas that have been handed down to us, not once has Thomas *ever* called Mary his mother, or Jesus his brother. No one else ever has! One would think they would at least acknowledge their mother or their brother just once if the relationship existed. Yet no one supported this in their own writings. It was only alluded to in the writings of outside observers.

The fact is that we have no facts regarding any birth children of Mother Mary after Jesus. The expression 'brothers and sisters' is widely applied to all sorts of kith and kin in India and Asia even today. As mentioned earlier, my translator-assistant in Murree was Tehseen, a Yusufzai-Pashtun descended from Prophet Muhammad through Fatima (known as Ashraaf or sayyid-same application as the word desposyni). She had no less than 30 'brothers and sisters' from her village in the NWFP near Peshawar.

Everyone claiming descent from Prophet Muhammad, especially Shia "Twelvers" (Ithnā 'Asharīyah, or Imāmiyāhhad) had their own elaborate genealogies and immediately identified with this project. Most were eager to participate, even to getting DNA from the tombs of Abraham and the Prophet Muhammad, and remains of Imam Hussain, Muhammad's grandson who was killed at the Battle of Karbala. They found the Project exciting and compel-

ling, a way to prove their own holy lineages. Shias have been staunch supporters of the DNA Project.

After leaving Judea in 44 CE, Thomas went with Haban the merchant to the court of Gondopharnes at Taxila. [2] Thomas may have been arranging for the resettlement of Jews from Judea, or he may have been arranging for the relocation of Mother Mary's grave. In 45 CE, a year later, Jesus and Julian of Nisibis (and possibly John Mark identified as Malaka or Moroka) were also at the Court of Gondopharnes.



In hundreds of icons, paintings, and coins a commonality exists that has enabled us to identify Jesus across the ages and around the globe. Depictions of Jesus all seem to be remembered from a common source.





God (Brahma-probably Jesus) bringing donations to the monks. This statue was found in Afghanistan near the Bamyan Buddha. Dated to circa 100-200 AD. It was taken from the Kabul Museum and is now in the hands of an unknown private collector.

John Mark had been the official 'Chief of the Proselytes' of the Egyptian head of the Qumran Therapeutae, but here, while he was briefly with Jesus, he was known as Moroko (or Malaka), who was also the Chief Minister to Pravarasena (Jesus). Hebrews lived in large numbers in India, and most of them readily adopted Christianity. There were two languages in use, Greek and Karoshti, a variant of the Hebrew script that appeared on most coins and

legal documents. Rulers from Rome and Judea to northern India often carried Persian and Hebrew titles as well as Aramaic, Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin. [198] Each ruler was expected to get his own coins minted during his reign. This has become a nightmare for coin collectors. Sasan, or Gondophares-Sases as he appears on many of his coins, is the king who would have been on the throne at the time. The name Gondophares was used repeatedly through the dynasty in a manner like Caesar. The term Caesar also appears in a third century Kushan inscription amongst the titles of Kanishka III.



The letters on this First Century gold Greek coin say ' Osho.' (Issa). Hundreds of such coins have been discovered that bear names like Parsha, Ieosus, and Issa, yet none are thought to be of Jesus because he was supposed to have died on the cross in 33 AD. The name Gad is of interest as Gadana, or Gadaranisa, appears on coins either with the name of Orthagnes or with the apparent double title 'Gondophares-Gadana'[199]

In excavations at the Julian Monastery at Taxila, a series of 1st century sculptures has been recovered showing a man who some identify as Jesus, and he has a child with him. In these reliefs, the men are dressed as travelers riding fine horses. The edict that identifies this group dates to circa 50 CE, and reads 'The man with the peaked cap is the donor of the group' [their sponsor and leader].

The Aramaic inscriptions at Taxila describe a 'foreign guest' (peredisia-priyadarsia) who was a carpenter-master builder (naggaruda) and who was accompanied by the sun-god (rudradeva-romadota). I believe that this can only be a reference to Thomas and Jesus.

It is uncertain how the Julian Monastery got its name, but according to Sir John Marshall, the archaeologist who headed twenty years of excavations at Taxila, it was probably named for Julian of Nisibis and 'Jaulian' is an errant translation that is now widely used. The Monastery existed since before the first century, but Emperor Julian reigned circa 361 AD, so this name was given later than the first century. Before, it would simply be Taxila.





Ajanta Caves-1st-2nd Century-a younger Jesus appears on the left, and a much older Jesus appears on the right, suggesting he visited the monks here at least twice. The unique belt also appears in a depiction found at Taxila, made about the time Thomas and Jesus visited Gondopharnes. These photos were taken by Jean Louis Nau, and appear with permission from India Archaeology Survey Department.





Unique belt also seen at Ajanta Cave paintings also at Taxila and Pahalgam (Kashmir). On right same man depicted with a young prince at his side, a rod, a cross, and an ascension, near the famous 'ka' rock, that levitated (in Palgham, now missing).

DEPARTURE FROM THE HOLY LAND

On this journey along the Silk Road, Jesus was leading a small caravan of family members and refugees. Mother Mary was with them.[200]

James, brother of John, was executed; Peter was imprisoned and later escaped. Around 50 CE all Christians and Jews were banned from Rome under King Herod Agrippa I (Rome would not become Christian until the conversion of Emperor Constantine in 312 AD). However, before the banning of Christians and Jews, troubles had already been mounting for them. The exodus seemed inevitable ten years before it actually began, and every apostle in every land was preparing places for the thousands of refugees that had begun relocating by 40-45 AD.

Luke 21:20-22-

> 'But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies… Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it; for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written.'

George Peter Holford. The Destruction of Jerusalem (1805)-

> 'And it is with reason supposed, that on this occasion many of the Christians, or converted Jews, who dwelt there, recollecting the warnings of Jesus, retired to Pella, a place beyond Jordan, situated in a mountainous country, whither (according to Eusebius, who resided near the spot) they came from Jerusalem, and settled, before the war (under Vespasian) began. Other providential opportunities for escaping occurred… for it is a striking act that history does not record that even one Christian perished in the siege of Jerusalem.'

There were more than one hundred Jewish Christians in the exodus led by Jesus, mostly women and children, and they traveled slowly. It took nearly nine months to make the journey that normally only took only eight to twelve weeks. By the time they arrived at Taxila, only twenty families remained with Jesus.[201] One by one, the others were left at safe villages where they had relatives or other Christians willing to help them resettle into a new life.

Thomas was purportedly 'sold' by Jesus to the merchant Haban. However, it is more believable that the money was given for the purchase of land for ashrams, churches, and safe houses for Jews being persecuted. They sailed for India and landed at the port of Muziris[202]. (Muziris is a descriptive word for the "Egyptians', and still defines 'foreigners' today. They had arrived via the Red Sea route and established several thriving communities along the coast. By 52 AD, within 10 years of his meeting with Gondopharnes in Taxila, Thomas had established 7 churches in the Malabar area[203]. This brings together many pieces to the puzzle of Thomas' purpose for going to India. Coincidentally, the King of Cranganore[204] was among the magi who went on the journey to Bethlehem.

Kodungallur-Malabar- known as Musiris in the ancient world, is where Thomas first landed in India. This place was regarded as the 'Rome' of India both as the center of the Indian Church and as its gateway to world-trade through its famous harbor at the mouth of the river Periyar. This changed when the Portuguese arrived 400 years later.

K.P. Padmanabha Menon, in *'History of Kerala'* (1924) laments-

> 'The present condition of Cranganore is, indeed, deplorable. Having continued to be prosperous and important almost from Pre-historic times till the middle of the 14th century, it has since fallen into complete ruin and decay.'

Voltaire, in 'Philosophical Dictionary Epiphany; The Manifestation, The Appearance, The Illustration, The Radiance', also mentions Cranganore-

> 'Bishop Osorio relates that it was a king of Cranganore who undertook this journey with two of the magi, and that this king on his return to his own country built a chapel in honor of Mother Mary. Cranganore was the revenue collection center for the goods coming to the port. It was a major world port location. Any magi-king living here would be prosperous.'

Long before the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD as many as 10,000 Jews came as exiles from Israel and were absorbed into communities such as Cranganore. This distinct Jewish community was called Anjuvannam. The still-functioning synagogue in Mattancherry now belongs to the Paradesi Jews, the descendants of the Sephardim who were expelled from Spain in 1492. The descendants of the first exodus from Jerusalem are living in the region to this day. Thomas had successfully established churches in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Parthia and Ethiopia (he probably assisted Magdalene there) before coming to India.[205] Following the death of Mother Mary, Thomas left northern India with seven other religious leaders and their families. Among them was Prince Kepha (Peter), who had also become a Bishop. He assisted Thomas for several years. They trained hundreds of new priests and bishops.[206] Records of their endeavors survive in many Thomasian communities in India.

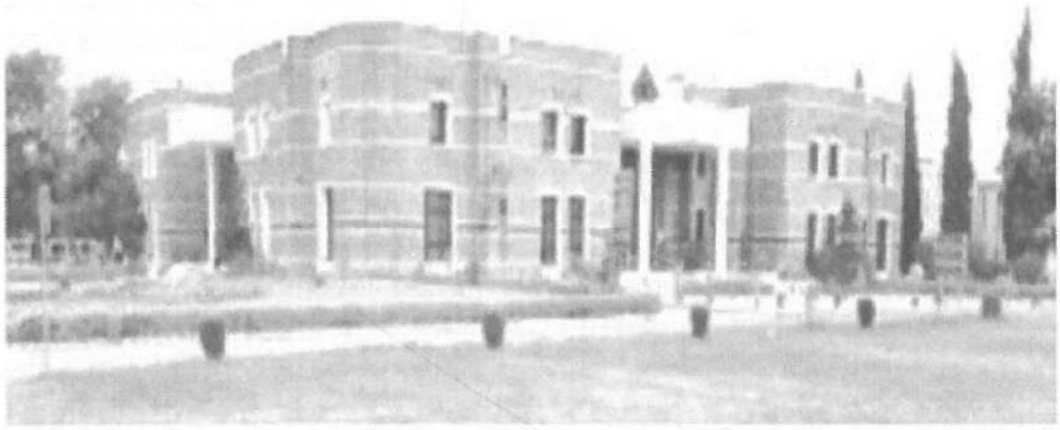
Thomas used the city of Cranganore as his base. He was only 550 miles (1040 kilometers) directly down the coastline from Bartholomew in Bombay (now Mumbai). This is less than 1000 miles from Kashmir and Taxila. By taking the coastal route in a good boat, or traveling on good horses, contact rarely took more than two weeks. This was the great commercial center for spices destined for Rome (The Southern Spice Route and the Cinnamon route), a place where many foreign travelers would learn about Christianity and carry the essence of the religion worldwide.

Rome spared no effort to make these ports fast and safe. It took less than forty days for a spice-laden ship to leave here and deliver its goods to Rome. Philo and Josephus wrote about these trade routes. Jews, Arabs, African and

Chinese merchants shared their lives on a daily basis here, and these ports were bristling with their vibrancy.

From the very beginning, Thomas was warmly received. Within eight days of his arrival, Thomas had already ordained two bishops, Kepha and Paul, for the cities of Malabar and Coromandal (Mylapor).





Julian Monastery at old Taxila University and modern Taxila University located near the old ruins.

Jesus had given additional names to most of his disciples. Simon Peter/Cephas (Kephas = 'rock') was the name for Peter. Prince Kepha's father, Prince Anthrayos (Andrew), the Hebrew King of Tiruvanchikkulam (Kodun-

gallur-Cranganore.) and the entire Hebrew royal family had become Christians after the arrival of Thomas.

As the result of Thomas having the support of such prominent and wealthy families, Christianity was warmly received and spread rapidly. The Thomasian new arrivals and converts were granted many exceptional privileges and honors. This is attested to by the number of documents and copper plates that have survived. These have become known as the '*Magna Carta*' of the Thomasine Christians. [207]

These Christians were respectfully addressed as the *Nazarini mappilas,* or the 'sons of kings.' They were regarded as people of high and noble birth, greatly reputed for their fairness and good behavior, and well-formed (handsome) good looks.

All of the churches in India that are associated with Thomas were known as Saivite (Shaivism) temples (not the same as temples to Shiva). Sacred ash (vibhuti) came to be used as a sign of Shaivism.
Devotees of Shiva wear it as a sectarian mark on their foreheads and other parts of their bodies with reverence.

Kashmir Shaivism was launched, perhaps, by Vasugupta (ca 800) and contains many elements of Christianity combine with Vedic features. The Saivite temples were first used as the original Christian churches of India. The Malankara Church of Syria recorded that, among the converts that flocked to Thomas, several were of the high caste 'Nambuthiri Brahmins.'
They included families from the Kalli, Kalikavu, Pagalomattom, and Shankarapur of Paylayoor. According to Antonio de Gouvea[208], no other caste was held in such high esteem among the Malabarians as these Syrian Christians. They were even allowed to have their own military force because they were also regarded as the protectors of certain low-caste groups.

They were allowed to try legal cases and even inflict capital punishment, if necessary. Goueva said that these Christians supplied the Raja of Cochin with an army of fifty thousand men. The success of a king in times of war would often depend upon the number of Thomasian Christians that would support him. This actually led to a competition to gain the favor of these Christians in India, and many non-Christian kings rushed to endow them with tax-free lands and appoint them as ministers and councilors.[209]

Cochin has been significant to both Jewish and Christian history in India, at least since the days of Solomon, for it is Solomon who is credited with developing and improving the seaports. His warships brought back merchandise from Muziris and other Cranganore.-Egyptian settlements along the India coastline.

While discussing the dealings of the Phoenicians, Pliny, the Roman historian (23-79 CE), complained that every year they were wasting large sums of money in India for silk, spices, pearls, and gems.

The *Book of Esther* cites decrees that were enacted by Ahasuerus that related to the Jews who had dispersed in his empire from Hodu to Cush (India to Ethiopia.) Two copper plates in Cochin's main synagogue detail the privileges that the Jews of Anjuvannam were granted to them *so long as the world and the moon exist.*

The ancient signs of the Star of David and the cross began appearing with the symbol '*Ohm'* (amen) in Christian churches in India, and *ohm* (pra-Nava mantra) appears with almost all objects of worship in all religions in India. One reason for the rapid success of Judaism and Christianity in India is attributed to two key Hindu concepts, one of caste and the other of samsara. In Hinduism, whether you are of high or low birth, your fate was sealed at birth with no hope of changing your status in this lifetime.





To achieve freedom and experience samsara (atman-release of the soul from these perpetual cycles) you must go through many lifetimes until you get it right.

M.M. Ninan[210] emphasizes that the impact of Jesus and Thomas on India was huge. Their influence rippled through all of India and many of its main ideas, themes and events permeated every religion on India soil. Thomas totally transformed India in much the same way that John and Paul transformed the western world. There were three broad classes of religions when Jesus and Thomas entered India: Aryan Vedic (nature-sun-star worship of which Zoroastrianism and Judaism would be classed), Buddhism (anti-theistic) and Jainism (non-theistic). Of all the sacred Hindu scriptures, only one Veda tradition existed at the time, and it was written in the same Persian script as the Zend Avestas of the Zoroastrians, and much of the mythology is recognizably the same. There is a dualism between good and evil, right and wrong, that eventually became the orthodox position in most religions. Its development may have owed much to the Magi who served as conduits between all people and faiths.

The symbol of the fish in 

early Christianity (Pisciculialso) appears in India. The fish symbol has been used for millennia worldwide as a religious symbol associated with the Great Mother Goddess. However, in Christianity it is believed to be an acronym used by Christians.

Each letter translates to represent the beginning of the words "Jesus Christ of God Son Savior."

Some European royal lineages claim decent from the king, Merovus. In some legends, Merovus was descended from creatures that came from the sea, and his symbol was a fish.[211] This may be an allegory for Vikings arriving by sea. *"Holy Blood, Holy Grail."--"Bloodline of the Holy Grail"*, and *"DaVinci Code"* used these two separate fish stories to conclude that Merovus was descended from the Christ family, thereby linking the desposyni with the Merovingian kings of Europe.

A currently popular myth is about a just-widowed, pregnant Magdalene fleeing Jerusalem in a boat after the crucifixion. The boat lost an oar and came ashore somewhere in France. In some versions she is carrying the unborn child of Christ, in other versions, the child is already born. Now one problem with this story is that the historical facts simply do not support *any* portion of these stories. There was a well-published discovery, 12 December 1279 of a sarcophagus with no markings that was proclaimed the tomb of Mary Magdalene. It came complete with miracles. Thus began the pilgrim-drawing (hence money-generating) cult of Mary Magdalene. Charles II of Anjou, King of Naples arduously supported the bishop and founded the massive Gothic Basilique St. Marie-Madeleine in 1295. They are entirely fiction, made up in the heads of writers, and many of these authors and their supporters have been compelled to admit as much when their research did not hold up to investigation. Jesus bloodline hypotheses parallel other legends about the flight of disciples to distant lands, such as the one depicting Joseph of Arimathea traveling to England after the death of Jesus, taking with him a piece of thorn from the Crown of Thorns, which he later planted in Glastonbury.

Historians generally regard these legends as "pious frauds"[212] that began proliferating during the Middle Ages. In this book we will discuss a very different course of actions for Joseph of Arimathea. I am not saying that Magdalene or Mother Mary, or Pilate (legends say he was from Scotland, or Germany, or Spain where similar stories also exist) or Claudia or Thomas *never* visited Britain or France. Perhaps they did. But we must narrow down our searches to the earliest written records, and there simply are *none* regarding their actual presence in Britain or France, not even in the Apocryphal texts (the collection of ancient books found, in some editions of the Bible, in a separate section between the Old and New Testaments or as an appendix after the New Testament.)

CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA TODAY

Dr. Berchmans Kodackal, in May 1998 (a Catholic priest, a Canon Lawyer and a Civil Lawyer from the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly of the Syro-Malabar Church in the state of Kerala, India) has this to say about Christians in India today…

'Christianity is the third largest religion in India today, after Hinduism and Islam. There are 25 million Christians in India.

This number is slightly more than the entire population of Australia and New Zealand, or slightly below the total population of Canada, or total population of several countries in Europe.

There are parts of India as heavily Christian as any part of Europe or America, e.g., Kerala, Goa, Mizoram. Kerala has the largest number of Christians among the states. However, in North India, the Church is represented only by small and scattered communities [especially since the invasion of Islam]. Christians including Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants, form the third largest group in India. It is estimated that about 73% of the Christians in India are Catholics (formerly Protestants until the arrival of the Portuguese split the churches). The Catholic Church in India is composed of three individual Churches -- Latin, Malabar and Malankara – each with their own independent hierarchies. Diversity of Christians is noticeable: Syrian Christians, Knanaya Christians, Goan Christians, Tamil Christians, Anglo-Indians, Naga Christians, etc. They differ in language, social customs and economic prosperity. Christians occupy high positions: cabinet ministers, governors of states, high court judges, University vice-chancellors, top-ranking officers, etc. Christians also have been the main contributors to education in India. Their contribution in the social work is out of all proportion to their numbers. Kerala is the cradle of Christianity in India. There the Christians play a decisive role in the fields of education, social work and even in politics.'

DEATH OF THOMAS

After 17 years in India, Thomas had been successful beyond all expectations. Kashmir served as the base for Jesus during these years. Jesus and Thomas would have been in regular communication, seeing each other frequently, and sharing news and updates on a regular basis, as friends will do everywhere in the world. India and Rome had remained very interactive, not only through trade but also through marriage. At the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE, 318 Bishops attended. John, Bishop of Persia and Great India, represented a huge population of Christians in India. Thomas left a legacy that would endure in India down to the present time.

Accounts of mistaken identity between Jesus and Thomas, in the *Acts of Thomas,* read like a comedy of errors, although Thomas was a good ten years younger than Jesus. Their close friendship and trust lasted their entire lives.

Regardless the extensive Christian and Jewish communities, the Brahmins were still a force to be reckoned with. The Brahmins would not modify the

concept of caste systems, and the priests made unrelenting and superstitious demands for their rituals.

This caused many to flee Hinduism and convert to beliefs that treated them with equal respect. Yet, in the end, the Brahmins prevailed, and India today is regarded as a Hindu nation. The word Hindu was first used by Arab invaders. Hinduism is formed of diverse traditions and has no single founder. Among its direct roots is the historical Vedic religion of Iron Age India.

There are several versions of the death of Thomas, with minor variations. According to the Acts of St. Thomas, the Kingdom of Mazdai (the Egyptians) was ruled by King Misdeus. Parts of the Indus Valley were then ruled by Persians, the Indo-Parthian Kingdom. Some Greek Satraps, the descendants of Alexander the Great, were vassals to the Indo-Parthian Kingdom[213]. According to the most widely accepted version of Thomas' death, King Misdeus was infuriated when his son Juzanes, the Queen Tertia, sister-in-law princess Mygdonia (a province of Mesopotamia) and her friend Markia[214] all decided to become Christians. The King had Thomas taken outside the city and imprisoned, but fearing a public riot, the king then ordered the soldiers to take him further away so as not to raise any suspicions among the locals.

When they were in a secluded place and Thomas realized that his death was imminent, he asked the soldiers to allow him to say his final prayers. The soldiers became afraid and began weeping, because no one wanted to kill this holy man. They gave him the opportunity to escape, but he would not run away.

After he finished praying, he told the soldiers that they should obey their king, and he outstretched his arms. Two men then held him while another pierced him with a sword. Thomas slumped to the ground, praying with his last breadth. The grieving soldiers then brought his body back to his church. The date was December 21, 72 AD. (Note: In another tradition, the soldiers fled and left him to die, but Thomas stumbled to a nearby apostle's house, survived there several more days, and then died.)

When the city found out what the king had done, they rose up against the Brahmins, and there were bitter riots that lasted for months. The grieving congregation dressed the body of Thomas in the finest garments of royalty and gave him a royal burial, placing him in a stone casket inside the Church. The lance that killed him, and even the blood-soaked dirt around his body, were placed in the casket with him.

In 72 AD, Brahmin priests were alarmed over the many conversions to this new Christianity. They wanted to declare all-out war on the other faiths in India, so that only their faith prevailed. They wanted to outlaw them and seize the temples and riches in their midst.

Book of the Bee-

'Thomas was from Jerusalem of the tribe of Judah. He taught the Parthians, Medes and Indians and because he baptized the daughter of the King of the Indians, he was stabbed with a spear and he died. Haban the merchant brought his body and laid it in Edessa, the blessed city of Christ our Lord. Others say he was buried in Mylapor, a city in the land of the Indians. His relics were moved from Edessa. The Edessene Chronicle says that in 394 "the casket of the Apostle Thomas was removed to the great church erected in his honor.'

The Syrian Church of Malabar, which retains many original Thomas documents, claims that Thomas was stabbed, then left to die, but he managed to crawl some great distance, until he reached some apostles. He was speared on December 18th and died on December 21st. His remains were buried in Edessa.[215] Muslims captured Edessa in 1142, at which time the Christians took the relics to the isle of Chios in the Aegean Sea, where they remained for more than a century.

In 1258, the prince of Taranto raided Chios and sent the relics to Ortona, Italy, where they were installed in the cathedral. In 1952, Cardinal Tisserant arranged to have sent to Cranganore a thigh bone (or arm bone in one account) of Thomas to commemorate the arrival of Thomas there. Where there is a bone, there is potential to gather DNA.

After a short stay in the Greek island of Chios, on September 6, 1258, the relics were transported to the West, and now rest in Ortona, Italy.'[216]

The Syrian Church claims all these relics of Thomas are false, based on myths that began centuries later. We do know that Thomas's bones were taken away secretly soon after his death. The son of King Mahadevan fell ill. He thought if he could obtain a bone from the saint, then this relic would cure him. When he sent his men to get a bone from the corpse of Thomas, they discovered that the tomb was empty and his body was gone. Later church historians were able to trace the route of Thomas' bones from Mylapor to Edessa.[217] I have no doubt that Jesus supported the idea of getting Thomas's bones transported with help from Haban. [218] Thomas died in 72 AD. Jesus would live another 20-25 years beyond this.

EXENOPHON

It was not Thomas who wrote the *Acts of Thomas* and *the Acts of Yesu* that gave us so much information about Jesus and Magdalene. According to the Church of the East- Thomasine Christians-the author of the *Acts of Thomas* (and probably the *Acts of Yesu*) was a man called Exenophon [not the same Exenophon the Greek historian who lived 430 – 354 BC.]

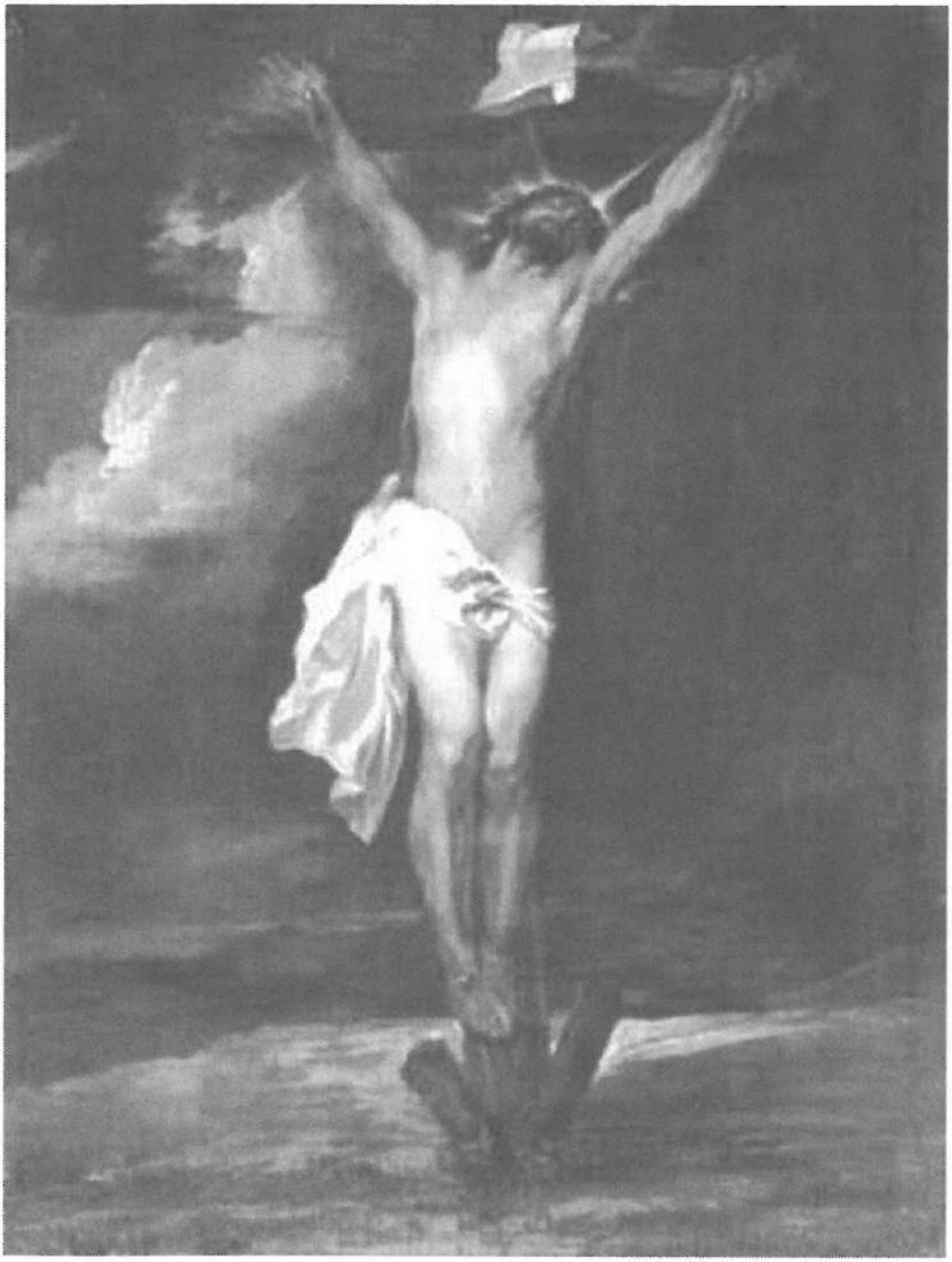
He gathered information and kept records of years of personal service as an acolyte[219] to Thomas, whom he served daily, and from other witnesses (notably St. Siphor.). The *Acts of Thomas* was first published in India,

specifically in Srinagar, before Exenophon died. Therefore, with regards to the identity of the author, we know that Exenophon, born 20CE in Takshashila (Taxila), was a student of letters, wrote the Acts of Thomas, first publishing it in chapters from 45 CE onward. By 80 CE (the year St. Siphor died) the first Eastern Bible canon was announced and it included Aof T. Exenophon was fluent in Greek and Aramaic and additionally he mastered (at least) Sanskrit, Bactrian, and the Karoshti and Brahmi scripts. Aof T was completed in 65 or 66 CE, shortly after Siphor arrived in Srinagar. The first publication of the book was in Karoshti; however Greek and Aramaic versions also circulated in the west. The original manuscripts are found in the British Museum.

There are early records to bear witness to Christianity in India. Tertullian listed India among those lands "ruled" by Christianity. Ephraim (c. 306-373 A.D.) wrote of Thomas' missions in India, and Anorbius (c. 305 A.D.) listed India among the countries under Christian influence. A person bearing the title "Bishop John of all Persia and Greater India" took part in the Council of Nicaea in AD 325, attesting to the acceptance and spread of Christianity rapidly overtaking Buddhism and Hinduism. Today Hinduism is the largest religion in India, followed by Islam. Christianity is the third largest religion in India and still a powerful influence on the hearts and minds of Hindus and Muslims.



Thomas Church at Palayur. 10,000 Christians and Jews came to Kerala soon after destruction of the 2nd Temple in 72 AD. Source: Official web portal for the Gov. of Kerala. Thomas stayed in India for 17 years; 4 years in Sindh (now in Pakistan) about 6 years in Malabar and 7 years at Mylapuram or Mailapore in Tamil Nadu.



Jesus on the Cross by D. Velazquez, 17th century.

It takes great courage to back truth unacceptable to our times.
There is a punishment for it,
and it's usually crucifixion.
I haven't the courage for that. — John Steinbeck

In order to gain fresh new insights into the crucifixion plot, we have to return to the Rod of Moses. Following the trail of the Rod leads to understanding the crucifixion. There is a Rod at the Topkapi Museum in Istanbul that still needs further research. It appears to be a replacement for something that may have been there centuries earlier. Due to extensive looting and destruction, many original relics are now lost. The Rod at Topkapi is really just a stick that doesn't look suitable enough even for a shepherd. It will never be known if this was meant to be a replacement for the original, or if another ever existed there. With centuries of looting and lusting for relics, we will never know all the facts. The two locations do suggest that there may have been two rods, one for Moses and one for Aaron. Our focus is on the Rod in Kashmir.

The life of Moses is centered on the Rod. The 23rd Psalm suggests the importance of rods, kingship, and miracles. We know this Rod is real, not a mere stick, and we know where it is. As Jesus traveled the Old Silk Road towards Kashmir, historians mention that he had the Rod with him. This appears in accounts written in Persian, including the Jame-ut-Tawarikh, Wajeez-at-Tawarikh, and Rauza-tus-Safa. [220]

It was placed inside the Roza Bal tomb 2,000 years ago, in an ancient and intricately carved casket that was built extra-long to accommodate the length of the rod (not a human body) that is 8'3". No corpse had ever been placed inside this sarcophagus. It only contained Hebrew relics related to the life of Christ. Soon after the arrival of Islam in Kashmir, the casket was opened. It is not mentioned if additional artifacts were removed. However, the Rod was definitely removed and this was recorded in history about 700 years ago. About 150 years ago it was moved two more times. These accounts appears on page 397 of '*Jesus in Heaven on Earth*' by Khwaja Nazir Ahmad, (first USA edition, 1998), and Hassnain, pp270, 271 together with photos of the Rod.

Various brotherhoods and guilds through the ages took on the responsibility of copying and preserving ancient texts such as those found with the Rod inside the casket. This precedence began with the great library of Alexandria. That library was conceived and opened either during the reign of Ptolemy I Soter (323–283 BC) or during the reign of his son Ptolemy II (283–246 BC).

As a symbol of the wealth and power of Egypt, it employed many scribes to borrow books from around the known world, copy them, and return them. The Sarmong Brotherhood was one such group that maintained this tradition, and so were the rishis of Kashmir.[221] The rishis were prominent when Vedic Hinduism took shape, first noted as far back as some three thousand years ago.

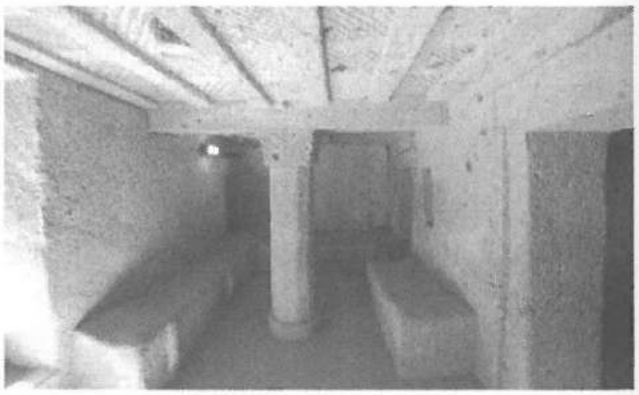
Many ancient rishis were women- 'rishikas' -in Sanskrit. According to the Vedic 'Sarvanukramani' text, there were as many as 20-35 women among the authors of the Rig Veda. According to tradition, a rishi spoke only truth because he or she existed in the Higher World (the unified field of consciousness).

According to ancient lore, Rishis provided knowledge to the world that came from the gods, including the knowledge of the Vedas. Monier-Williams[222], in his extensive Sanskrit-English Dictionary, also quotes the Hibernian (Irish) form of the word rishi.-'arsan'- a sage, a man with ancient wisdom and knowledge.

The rishis in Kashmir would have taken the ancient crumbling original documents from the sarcophagus and translated them on to fresh new pages. The originals could have been in Greek, Karoshti, Syriac or Aramaic. These were translated into the local language, Sharda. A similar custom existed with the Buddhist monks, who translated books and documents into Pali. This was the Prakrit language used by Buddhist monks and commonly used in Magadha, where Jesus once studied. It is the document called the Rishi Nama, the genealogy of the Rod that is of most interest to us, for this provides us with the lineage of the Rod's owners, ending with Jesus.

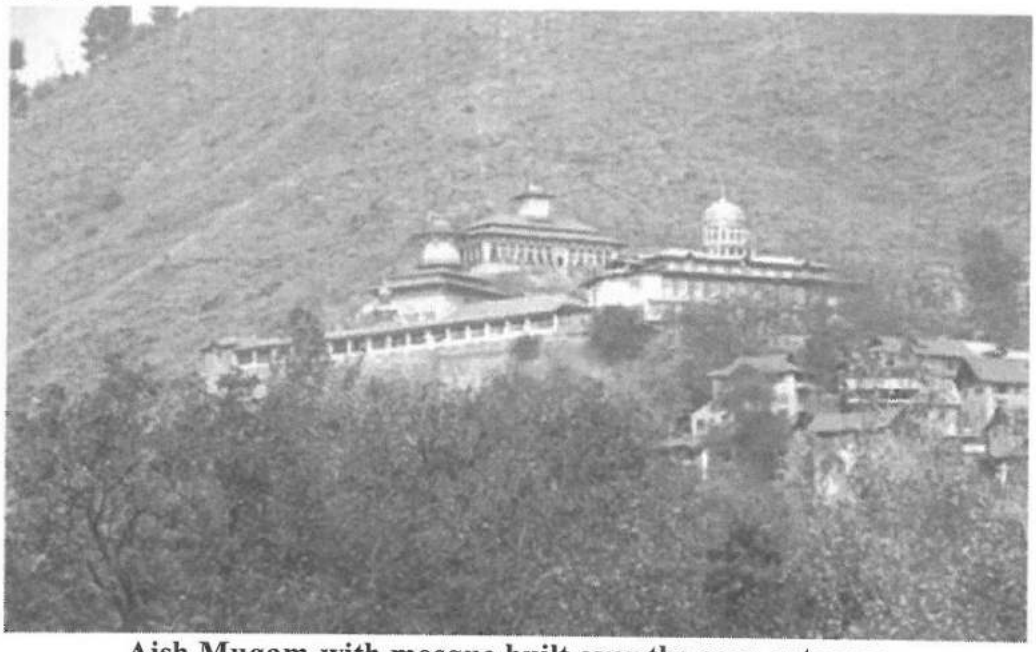
AISH MUQUAM HEBREW BURIAL TOMB

The mosque known as Aish Muqam (Aisha-Issa/Muqam- place of rest for Jesus- is where the Rod is being kept now. It is in close proximity to the Martand Sun Temple in nearby Anantnag district. Aish Muqam was built around the entrance to a marvelous cave cut into the side of a mountain. It is a classical 1st century Hebrew burial tomb like those found in Jerusalem. It bears a striking similarity to the Garden tomb in Jerusalem, the first tomb that Jesus was laid in by Joseph of Nazareth. The cave is 40 feet (12 m.) long.



Jerusalem burial cave- identical layout to Aish Muqam.

The walls and ceiling are carved in a unique swirl pattern resembling large seashells. This may have been added centuries later. There is a stone shelf running the entire length on both sides of the cave, and ends in a small room in the rear.



Aish Muqam-with mosque built over the cave entrance.

Hebrew bodies were bathed, oiled, then wrapped in cloths and placed on the shelves for approximately a year. Then their bones were prepared for a second burial in ossuaries. The ossuaries would be stacked on the shelves or in niches carved in to the walls, or stacked in a large 'room' carved out at the rear of the cave. Aish Muqam is a straightforward 1st century Hebrew burial cave, just like those found in Jerusalem.

There is another legend associated with this cave. Ba'd or Ba'b killed a huge snake protecting the cave, then moved in and made the cave his home. Whatever ossuaries or old bones were in the cave are gone now. Reverend Yajn, of the Kashmir Church of the East, speculates that the village was named after Jesus because he stayed here for some length of time. During that time he had the cave built, perhaps in anticipation for his own burial. After living in Srinagar during his final years, he was buried at Roza Bal instead.

There is a superstition about the rod that if it is misused, it will bring severe floods to the Valley. It is only taken out during times of epidemic or drought, and used in prayers to invoke help from God.

Every year on April 17th, the rod is displayed during the annual Urs of Hazrat Zain-ud-Din Wali with full fervor and gaiety. 'Urs' is an Arabic word applied to the death anniversary of a Sufi saint. Sadly, in efforts to hide the real origins of the rod, it is now claimed to be the rod of Hazrat Owais Qarni, a companion of the Prophet Mohammad, born in Yemen. This story is com-

pletely false, and a shockingly brazen attempt to refute any Christian claims to the rod through Jesus. This fabrication has no historical support what so ever.

Khwaja Nazir Ahmad[223] wrote about his visit to the cave in 1947, also after great difficulty and reluctance on the part of the imams at the mosque.

He reminded them there was indeed a current drought in the valley, thus justifying the viewing of the rod. They allowed him to see and photograph it. To everyone's amazement, within half an hour, there was a heavy deluge of much-needed rain. I know of no other photos taken since then.

We have the description of the rod passed down by Mr. Ahmad. He described it as 8'3" long (2.4 m long and 25 mm thick) of a very dark color, iron-hard wood that he thought might be olive wood. The rod was covered in an old green cloth wrapping. There had been something significant attached to the end of the rod.[224]

We can only imagine what might have been there originally, something of gold, or a tamga, or a precious gem perhaps. It must have been perceived to have great power. Only a simple nail or blade protrudes from the end of the rod now.

After Hazrat Zain-ud-din Wali was laid to rest in this cave about 500 years ago, then the mosque was built over the entrance. People came in throngs to celebrate the grave of this new saint.

No conscientious scholar denies that taking this Rod away from the remains of Yuz Asaph was a travesty and a desecration.

BOOK OF THE BEE
THE SARMAN BROTHERHOOD

Many sources allude to secret societies and their connection with the rod and with Jesus. Some believe the origins of these societies, like the White Brotherhood, the Essenes, the magi, the Druids., and the Sarmong Brotherhood began in ancient Egypt. Some have speculated that a Brotherhood was partly responsible for the survival of Jesus after the crucifixion, referring to the 'angel' seen at the empty tomb (Mathew 28:2).

We have located the rod, we know it is documented historical fact, and so every written comment mentioning the rod deserves a closer look, especially in relation to kingship and the crucifixion.

George Ivanovich Gurdjieff, an Armenian-Greek, spent twenty years in search of ancient wisdom in places like Kashmir, Afghanistan, Babylon, Iran, and Turkey. He claims to have discovered an important ancient Brotherhood. 'The Sarman Brotherhood' is a name that appeared 886 years previously in the writings of the Bishop of Bassoria. The word sarman is a reference to both bees and wisdom. Although Gurdjieff New Age spiritualism has been discredited by many, which should be no reflection of the actual Sarman Brotherhood that existed before his time. We are interested in what Gurdjieff learned about

connections between the Sarman Brotherhood, the rod, the magi-kings, and the life of Jesus.

The 'Book of the Bee' is a similar collection of ancient wisdom. It was written in Syriac 98 years after the *Rajatarangini* (history written in Kashmir between 1101-1200AD) by the Syrian Bishop of Bassoria named Solomon, and is regarded by Nestorian Christians as 'sacred history' copied from earlier works, perhaps even some from Kashmir.

The word Sarman is interpreted several ways. It is the word for bee, which was an ancient Egyptian symbol of those who collect the precious 'honey' of traditional wisdom and preserve it for further generations. A collection of legends, well known in Armenian and Syrian circles with the title of *The Bees*, was revised by the Bishop of Bassoria. *The Bees* also refers to a mysterious power transmitted from the time of Zoroaster, and made manifest in the time of Christ.... *Man* is a Persian word referring to things heredity in a distinguished family or race. The family represents the repository of an heirloom or tradition. The word *sar* means head, both literally and in the sense of principal or chief. The combination *sarman* would thus mean 'chief repository of the knowledge of mankind.' Yet another possibility was *those whose heads have been purified*...'the enlightened ones'. [225] The word 'Sarmoung' uses the Armenian pronunciation of the Persian term 'Sarman', which may mean either 'he who preserves the doctrine of Zoroaster', or 'bee'. It is the Armenian school of Sarmoung that Gurdjieff was associated with. After the arrival of Islam, this became associated with Sufi mysticism.

In *Studies in Comparative Religion*[226] according to the Armenian book *Merkhavat* [227] the Sarmoung Brotherhood was also known as the 'Inner Circle of Humanity', and originated in ancient Babylon around 2500 BC, at around the time the Egyptians built the Great Pyramid of Giza. 'Merkhavat' is part of Jewish mysticism thought to have existed from 100 B.C. until 1100. It is related to Gnosticism and the Kabbalah.

The Sarmoung Brotherhood was based on earlier Egyptian foundations, and was established by a group of people called the Aisors (descendants of the Assyrians (Ethiopians) who had become Nestorian Christians, originally from the region of Kurdistan-Mosul).

King Antiochus I[228] may have been its leader as research/author Adrian Gilbert[229] suggests. [230]This becomes significant when we look at the names and titles of the magi who visited Jesus at his birth.

According to *Account of the Sarmoung Brotherhood* by Major Desmond R. Martin[231], a major center of the contemporary Sarmoung Brotherhood was in the Hindu Kush Mountains of northern Afghanistan. Here, they stored and copied ancient texts to save them for humanity.

> 'Here in North Afghanistan for many centuries, the Brotherhood (and the sisterhood with which it is affiliated) maintained this settlement as a sort of country retreat, where aspirants are trained in the ancient arts

of service and self-discipline. Each monk is specialist of some sort: in gardening, local medicine, herbs, mathematics as known to them, calligraphy or even falconry. Working with felt, pelts, wool and looms, and with gold, silver, lapis lazuli, rubies and marble, all mined in Afghanistan, the inhabitants produce articles of surpassing beauty and durability.'

The Old Silk Road runs through these mountains to Kashmir, Kashgar, and all the way to the far coast of China. The Sarmoung Brotherhood's major headquarters was here, and they were regarded as members of the magi. The words 'Hindu-Kush' mean 'Hindu- Killer', a reference to the ancient border struggles between Afghanistan and India ('stan', as in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Balochistan at the end of a geographic description means 'the place of' and is cognate to the Latin terms 'state' and 'status' meaning "where or how one stands." Pakistan means "land of the pure.")

This is a major World Heritage site now, the location of the Mohenjo-Daro (Mound-Dead) and Harappa civilizations who built huge and important cities even before the Great Pyramids at Giza were built, and before Alexander the Great arrived with his armies to conquer the region. The Tora Bora Mountains lie within this mountain range, made famous during the Afghan War.

This is the land of the Sarsens, known for their stunning, shimmering thoroughbred horses and fine spring waters. Kings sent emissaries great distances to buy these horses. Today there are only 3,000 left in the entire world, primarily on Russian breeding farms. This is where Ahmad Shah Masoud (1953-2001) was killed on orders from Osama bin Laden 2 days before the attack on the World Trade Center in New York. This is where the Silk Road winds through the Khyber Pass. Jesus and Thomas were here, and Mother Mary came this way on her way to Kashmir. The Bamyan Buddhas were destroyed by the Taliban not far from here. Jesus and Thomas met with Gondopharnes/Gad here at Taxila. He was the magi king who visited Jesus at his birth. This was the crossroads of humanity, the place where mankind built his first great civilizations. Ancient traditions about the Zoroastrians, the magi, the White Brotherhoods, the Sarmoung Brotherhood, the rishis, all have connections to this region.

THE CRUCIFIXION PLOT BEGINS

According to the gospels, Jesus was accused of no crime under Roman law. This is borne out by Pontius Pilate saying (Luke 23:4), "I find no fault with this man."

The only crime that Jesus committed was to question the authority of the false prophets and priests. It was they who Jesus offended, not Rome. The crucifixion story is about greed, money, ego and lust for power. It is directly linked to possession of the Rod of Moses. In Chapter 30 of *The Sarmoung*

Brotherhood by Major Desmond R. Martin, titled *The History of Moses' Rod,* we can read this excerpt-

> 'They [Moses and the children of Israel] went into the Promised Land, and took the rod with them, on account of the wars with the Philistines and Amalekites. And Phineas [232] hid the rod in the desert, in the dust at the gate of Jerusalem, where it remained until our Lord Christ was born. And He, by the will of His divinity [233] showed the rod to Joseph the husband of Mary, and it was in his hand when he fled to Egypt with our Lord and Mary, until he returned to Nazareth. From Joseph his son Jacob took it, who was surnamed the brother of our Lord, and from Jacob, Judas Iscariot, who was a thief, stole it.'
> **(Note: '*Book of the Bee*' describes Jacob as son of Joseph *surnamed* a brother. He is regarded as a stepbrother of Jesus.)**

The rod of kingship passed from Aaron and Moses, and eventually to Joseph <u>*at the birth of Jesus.*</u> Who exactly retrieved the rod from its hiding place is not made clear, but it corresponds with the arrival of the magi, who may have kept the secret of the hiding place until the appointed time.

Jacob "took the rod." He did not "inherit" the rod as the next messiah, or this would have occurred at *his* birth instead of at the birth of Jesus. This is made clear. The only other explanation for Jacob taking the rod before Jesus would be the death of Joseph while Jesus was still a minor, and Jacob, as an elder son of Joseph, taking charge. We are not clear about the ages of either Jacob or Jesus when Jacob first 'took the rod.' This also suggests that the Rod was inherited from Aaron through the lineage of Mary. Joseph and his sons only possessed the Rod *after* Joseph and Mary were wed. The suggestion that Joseph was a widower is put forward in the non-canonical Apocrypha, which explains the brothers and sisters of Jesus as children by Joseph's first marriage. The rod was not intended for them although they were Joseph's first born.

Several of Jesus' disciples were known Zealots; Simon the Zealot (*Lk. 6:15*); Simon Peter who was known as 'Bar-jona' (*Mt. 16:17*) a derivation of 'baryona' Aramaic for 'outlaw' which was also a common name applied to Zealots; James and John shared the nickname 'Boanerges' or in Hebrew 'benei ra'ash'-'sons of thunder', another common Zealot reference. However, Judas Iscariot could not have been a member because the iscarii did not convene until 40 or 50 AD, long after the crucifixion events. The Hebrew interpretation for the word Iscariot means "the liar" or "the false one," and this is most likely the intended Biblical definition.

The Bible says of Pilate.-

> 'For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.' [234]

The word 'envy' conveys a very different motive for the crucifixion than, say, the words 'blasphemy', 'subversion', 'heretic', or 'treason.'

The Samaritans derive their name not from any geographical designation, but rather from the Hebrew term Shamerim…
'Keepers [of the Law].' They were waiting for their messiah [235] as promised in *Deuteronomy18:18-19-*

> 'I will raise up a prophet for them from among their own people, like yourself: I will put My words in his mouth and he will speak to them all that I command; and if anybody fails to heed the words he speaks in My name, I myself will call him to account.
> Among them will appear also Taheb, [Taheb means 'restorer' (when not used as a proper name 'repentant') and is linked with the expectation of a prophet like Moses who will arise] as the representative of the Samaritans, and quite unconscious of his Messiahship.
> But the whole council will be so impressed by his superior wisdom that they will follow him to Gerizim, where they will find the Law of Moses, the vessels of the temple, and the hidden manna. Then the whole earth will submit to the Law of Moses and to Taheb.' [236]

Muslims take this passage out of context to refer to the coming of Muhammad 600 years after Christ, which is impossible in the correct historical context. Samaritans believed this prophet would possess relics of Moses. Possession of the Rod of Moses was paramount to recognition as the next messiah.

Because of Jewish hostilities toward Samaritans, Hebrews would travel eastwardly and skirt Samaria. (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 20.6.1, mentions this regarding travel at feast times). Samaria was considered as not belonging to the Holy Land, a strip of 'foreign country' separating Judea from Galilee (Edersheim 1957, 12). Such a detour would take longer than the normal three days of travel. Jesus, however, did not hesitate to traverse Samaritan territory (*Luke 9:51-56; 17:11-19; John 4:1ff*). John wrote: "There came a woman of Samaria to draw water" (*John 4:7*). "The Samaritan woman said to Him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (for Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)" *(John 4:9)* What becomes significant is that she was a Samaritan, and, as the apostle comments, "Jews have no dealings with Samaritans" (v. 9). Jesus was not a Samaritan, but he appeared sympathetic towards them and this may have alarmed Judas. If Jesus had rightful succession to the Rod of Kingship, and announced his pending kingship, how was this perceived among the Zealots, the Samaritans, the Chief Priests and Pharisees?

It certainly caused no alarm among the Romans. Pilate seemed unconcerned that Jesus claims to be the King of the Jews and 'wonders' if Jesus is dangerous in any way, but quickly determines that Jesus is neither dangerous or a threat. (*Mk 15:1-5*). Clearly Pilate perceived Jesus' claims very differently from certain High Priests, and no threat of treason to the Roman Empire.

Caiaphas however, foresees problems and worries that if they "let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him…." Caiaphas makes a political

calculation, suggesting that it would be better for "one man" (Jesus) to die than for "the whole nation" to be destroyed.

In a later episode at the temple in Jerusalem, John records what turned in to a hostile encounter between some Jews and Jesus. It is interesting to note the terms used by the Jews in their attack on Jesus: "The Jews answered Him, 'aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?" (*John 8:48*) They could think of nothing worse to say about Jesus than to call him a Samaritan.

And here is the very crux of the problem. Jesus had shown sympathy towards Samaritans. Samaritans might well recognize and support whoever had the Rod of Moses. Jews and zealots did not want the Samaritans, or anyone sympathetic of them, to rule. They feared Jesus having possession of the Rod because Jesus' position and support was not clear to them. Further, there may have been greed and hopes that someone else would get the Rod and claim Messiahship once Jesus was out of the picture. That 'someone' may have been Judas Iscariot.

According to the gospels, the main charge against Jesus was that he claimed to be the king of the Jews. The manner in which Jesus entered Jerusalem was that of a Jewish king who claimed the throne. Convinced that he was the next rightful King of the Jews, due to his legitimate possession of the Rod of Moses, and in deliberate fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. He was greeted with strewn palms and cries of 'Hosanna!'

James Tabor, author of *The Jesus Dynasty*, describes how Annas, father-in-law of the High Priest Caiaphas, wielded much power behind the scenes. Five of his sons were officially appointed to the position of High Priest. Next to Herod Antipas, Joseph Annas was the most wealthy and powerful Jewish leader of the time. He must have known and approved of the arrest of Jesus. This would not be the only time the Annas dynasty attacked the Jesus dynasty. In 62 CE, Annas 2nd had James, brother of Jesus, killed. Caiaphas had sent the Temple police to arrest Jesus.

It was not blasphemous to declare oneself a 'Messiah' or a 'Son of God' any more than it would have been to claim to be an angel. The Pharisees who composed the majority of the Sanhedrin would dismiss such a charge at once since blasphemy could *only* be applied to anyone who claimed to be God Almighty. Jesus' declaration that he was a Messiah merely referred to his earthly desire to ascend to the throne of David—this might be construed as an act of sedition against Rome, as Caiaphas charges Jesus, but not one of blasphemy.

Sedition implies use of verbal agitation only; treason is actually committing acts against the State or government. Blasphemy is the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for a religious deity or the irreverence towards religious or holy persons or things. In Jesus' case, none of these

really applied. If Jesus had legitimate possession of the Rod, especially if it was presented by the magi at his birth, then his claim was valid. He was not guilty of sedition, treason, or blasphemy. The Romans were the only ones *not* reacting negatively to Jesus. He was never perceived as a threat to them. He was a legitimate king, but not for any holdings in Caesar's realm. After the crucifixion, it was Pilate and Tiberius who brought Jesus to the attention of the Roman world, declaring Jesus as a miracle worker, a king and a god (written in Pilate's report to Tiberius, Tiberius' report to the Roman Senate, and the historian Tertullian, 'The Apology' Chapter 5.) How can we align these events with events in Kashmir? We have only to change the names and just slightly re-align some dates mentioned by Kalhana as he tried to piece together the king list of Kashmir. Then we find the kingdom that Jesus was appointed to rule.

PRINCES AND THIEVES

There was a ruler in Kashmir, an usurper named Jayendra. He had a Chief Minister, Sandimatti, a prince who was appointed to his court from 20 BC to 20 AD. This may represent Jesus, but this could also be Joseph father of Jesus, who has a grave nearby.

The Sanhedrin, which means "sitting together", was an assembly of seventy members made up of the chief priests, scribes and elders. The presiding officer of the Sanhedrin was the Jewish high priest. Each city could have its own lesser Sanhedrin of 23 judges, but there could be only one Great Sanhedrin of 71, which among other roles acted as the Supreme Court, taking appeals from cases decided by lesser courts. In the Rajatarangini, Jayendra had a minister at his court named Sandimatti (simply 'Chief Minister'). This could mean a member of this lesser Sanhedrin.

JUDAS ISCARIOT

Jacob had the Rod before Judas Iscariot stole it. Judas is described as a "thief" [John 12:6], and as one who was motivated and possessed by Satan [John 13:2, 27]. This suggests that Jayendra was none other than Judas Iscariot.

The Rajatarangini is quite clear that Jayendra was not a popular ruler in Kashmir. He poorly managed the country's funds and was asked to step down and pass the reigns to Sandimatti, the rightful leader. Instead, Jayendra stole Sandimatti's wealth, had him imprisoned, then crucified by hanging on a tree. A titulus appeared on Sandimatti's forehead…a sign predicting his return as king in ten years, and indeed it was approximately ten-eleven years after the crucifixion that Jesus sent the apostles on their missions and returned to Kashmir. Upon the death of Jayendra, Sandimatti eventually returned to rule the kingdom. Jayendra died a jealous, sad and bitter death, cursing the survival of Sandimatti, knowing that he had failed to execute his rival. The

crucifixion story of Jayendra, Sandimatti and Issana as told in India parallels the story of Judas Iscariot and Jesus.

Joseph is last mentioned in Luke's Gospel (chapter 2) when Jesus was 12 years old. When at the approximate age of 32 Jesus addresses his hometown of Nazareth, his father is no longer mentioned. I hypothesize that it was Joseph who served in Jayendra's court and with him was his son Jesus. That throne was intended for Jesus and Joseph was preparing the way. But Jayendra did not want to give up his position and so ordered both Joseph and Jesus killed. Joseph's grave is not far from Taxila. Then Jesus returned to Jerusalem to gain back his throne. He kept saying that he was king, and Pilate had no problem with these claims. Jayendra had stolen their wealth and the Rod, fully expecting to maintain his own ill-begot claims to the Kashmir throne.

Some rulers chose to live in Kashmir, but many did not. Kashmir is snowbound during long months of winter, and cut off from the world. The roads are blocked with deep snow. No one travels in or out. All kings of Kashmir spent the winter months living south in neighboring Jammu or Taxila. Some could live as far as Rome or Jerusalem or Cairo if they chose to. Their ministers were expected to handle local matters, enforce local laws, and collect taxes for them.

The crucifixion took place at the end of March or early April, a time when rulers were venturing through the cold wet muddy roads and trails back to Kashmir.

Voltaire [237] wrote about the theft of Joseph's wealth even before the Rod was stolen from Jacob-

> 'It has been inquired how much gold they [the magi] gave Joseph and Mary. Many commentators declare that they gave them rich presents; they built on the authority of the "Gospel of the Infancy," which states that Joseph and Mary were robbed in Egypt by Titus {who begged to 'let these good people go free'] and Dysmus [Dumachus] "but," say they, "these men would never have robbed them if they had not had a great deal of money." These two robbers were afterwards hanged; one was the good thief and the other the bad one.[238] But the 'Gospel of Nicodemus' gives them other names; it calls them Dimas and Gestas. '[gestas means 'justice.']

Suarez has investigated what became of the gold that the three kings or magi presented; he maintains that the amount must have been very large, and that kings could never make a small or moderate present to a future king. He says that the whole sum was afterwards given to Judas, who, acting as steward, turned out a rogue and stole the whole amount.[239]

PONTIUS PILATE AND JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA HEROES OF THE DAY

Quran 4:157-158 [240]

> 'Because of their [the Jews] saying; "*We slew the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, God's messenger*" -- They slew him not, nor crucified him, but it appeared so unto them, and lo!
> Those who disagree concerning it are in doubt thereof; they have no knowledge thereof save pursuit of a conjecture; they slew him not... (Jesus did not die on the cross) But God took him up unto Himself. God was ever Mighty, Wise.'

If Jesus survived the crucifixion, it may not have been under the *most* horrendous circumstances that one could possibly imagine. There may have been people frantically working behind the scenes to avert an unjust and unfair tragedy. Even Pilate seems to be involved in this 'other' crucifixion plot, the one that would ensure Jesus' survival. Some suggest that Pilate and Jesus may have been very close in age; the minimum age of election to consul was 41 years of age.[241] Pilate had to be at least that age. Jesus, born circa 4-7 BCE, was between 34 and 40 years old at crucifixion.

Some researchers suggest that Joseph of Arimathea[242] and Pilate were also close friends before the crucifixion. The *Gospel of Peter* describes him as both 'a *friend of Pilate and of the Lord….Joseph was a soldier of Pilate seven years.*' [243] Joseph is called "nobilis de curio" which indicates that he had an officer's rank in the Judean or Roman Army. Rev. Smithett Lewis, M.A. (*Joseph of Arimathea,* p. 56) states-

> 'We have proof that Decurio was a recognized office in the Roman Empire in the time of Joseph. Cicero had a favorite villa in Pompeii. At that time its City Council consisted of Decurios, who had been ex-magistrates, and of other pre-eminent persons. So important were they, that Cicero said, with some irony, that it was easier to become a Senator of Rome than a Decurio in Pompeii.'

This is a very important clue to the crucifixion events, and why Jesus survived. If Joseph of Arimathea had a high rank in the Roman Army and had a long-standing friendship with Pilate, and was sympathetic to Jesus or even a member of Jesus' family, then there is no way the Roman soldiers would disrespect his wishes or go against his judgment as a senior officer. If Pilate said "Go gently on him" (Jesus) they clearly understood the intention.

Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Roman Provincial Council that was headed by Pontus Pilate, and they seemed to be working in unison to rescue Jesus. 'Arimathea' means 'Two Hills' and Joseph of the 'Two Hills' apparently had his estate right where the Jerusalem tombs are located, between two hills. (Source: James Tabor blog).

Pilate rose to the occasion to help the family of Jesus because 'he understood the treachery against them.' [244] He repeatedly declared Jesus an innocent man.

Val Wineyard a novelist and researcher in France, believes that Pilate and his wife had already joined the ranks of Jesus' followers even before the trial of Jesus. Pilate's wife, Claudia, was in fact a daughter of Tiberius, and the entire family shared their dislike of the Jewish priests. The history of Mary Magdalene in the region of Languedoc is tied directly to Claudia. Ms. Wineyard suggests that Claudia had property in the Corbières and invited her friend Mary Magdalene there. They had this friendship long before the crucifixion, and long after.[245]

Pilate often expressed his low opinion of the local Jews, and did not lump Jesus together with them. It was Pilate who offered Jesus shelter and safety inside the Pretorium. He would not have done this for an ordinary criminal. It was Pilate who told the guards to 'go lightly' on the scouring and crucifixion of Jesus. Similar clues must have been transmitted by Joseph of Arimathea, and the soldiers would, of course, listen carefully to their commanders in Chief. Experts that they were, these soldiers knew exactly what to do to insure either Jesus' death or his survival. It was only a matter of the smallest degree where to place a nail. The *Gospel of Nicodemus* tells us that Pilate had instructed his soldiers-

> 'Let Jesus be brought with gentleness.'
> [Presumably throughout the trial]

Any show of force and 'brutality' was part of a well-planned 'show' of crucifixion for the onlookers. Jesus himself probably knew nothing of this and fully expected to die that day.

John's Gospel[246] gives the most detailed review of the narrative between Pilate and Jesus. John describes a lengthy, civil discourse, in which Pilate asks Jesus-

> "Are you a king?"

Jesus replied in *John 18:37*-

> "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth."

Pilate then poses one of the most famous lines of the trial-

> "What is truth?"

If Jesus was given the Rod of Moses at his birth, then he knew his destiny. His reply made logical sense; "To this end I was born, and for this purpose I came into the world…" He was destined to be a king *and* a messiah.

The rod was the symbol that legitimized this destiny. The mystery for us, looking centuries back, is our lack of understanding *why* the magi selected Jesus at his birth.

Herod Antipas,[247] the tetrarch, found nothing treasonous or untruthful in Jesus' actions and claims. The Herods had been persecuting Jesus' family relentlessly for years. Why would he then go lightly at this opportunity? And yet, he did. Why was this event the exception?

What the evidence suggests is that Pilate, and perhaps his wife Claudio, were willing to risk everything for the sake of Jesus and his family. By keeping Jesus under the care of his own soldiers, and on his orders alone, he knew there would be a chance to control the outcome. This is why Jesus was handed over to one of Pilate's most trusted centurions. Had Jesus been placed in the custody of the priests, his fate would have been very different. It was Pilate who made sure that he, and his closest soldiers, remained in control of Jesus at all times to ensure the outcome.

TITULUS CRUCIS

According to the Bible, Pilate had the inscription: *"Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews"* written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek on the headboard of Jesus' cross.

John 19

> 'And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was 'Jesus of Nazareth[248], King of the Jews.' This title was read by many of the Jews for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.
>
> Then the Chief Priests went to Pilate and said-
>
> "Write not the King of the Jews: but that 'he said' I am king of the Jews."
>
> Pilate stood up to them and answered-
>
> "What I have written, I have written."

It was Pilate's bold affirmation that Jesus *was* the rightful King!

The head-board was discovered hidden in a lead-sealed box buried in the dirt floor of a church, hidden there when the Visigoths were attacking. It was found by workmen in 1492 when they were repairing a mosaic wall. The brick that was covering the box was inscribed 'Titulus Crucis' and the three languages that Pilate used, Aramaic, Latin and Greek, were all visible. The story in Kashmir takes a slightly different twist to this. In Kashmir a 'sign' appears on Sandimatti's forehead stating he will survive and return to take his place as the rightful ruler of Kashmir.

According to legend, Helena had the titulus crucis, which, for some unknown reason was cut into three pieces (unless it was already cracked or crumbling in three places). She kept one third of the sign, left one-third in Jerusalem, and gave the last piece to her son, Constantine. One third of the sign existed in Jerusalem in 383, and was kept in a silver box with a piece of the original cross.[249]



A portion of the Titulus. In 2002, the University of Arizona conducted radiocarbon dating tests on the artifact and it was shown to have been made between 980 and 1146 AD. The carbon dating results were published in the peer-reviewed journal *Radiocarbon*. The Titulus Crucis recovered from the residence of Helena is most likely a medieval artifact although some have proposed that it may be a copy of the now-lost original.

Helena, mother of Constantine, returned from the Holy Land in 328 and acquired relics of Jesus. My grandmother had family relics in her attic that were more than 300 years old. It does not seem unusual to retain such things, or that Helena could acquire them.

Both the Ethiopian and Abyssinian (Coptic) Churches canonized Pilate for his help during the crucifixion. He is now one of their official saints. There are two mountains named in his honor: Mt. Pilat, located in France, and Mt. Pilatus, located in Switzerland. The town of Avalon is not far from Mount Pilatus.

Some assume that Pilate eventually committed suicide. Eusebius (*Historia Ecclesia* 7) quotes some early apocryphal accounts that he does not name, which relate that 'Pilate fell under misfortunes in the reign of Caligula (AD 37–41), was exiled to Gaul and eventually died there in Vienne'.

In essence, the truth is not known where, when, or how he died. He could have died as an old retired country gentleman, remaining friends with Jesus, Magdalene, and Joseph of Arimathea, who are also associated with Gaul. He surely died with a smile, knowing that he outwitted the Jewish priests and helped Jesus survive the crucifixion.

Early Christian texts did their best to exculpate Pilate from the death of Jesus. In his *Apologeticum*, the church father Tertullian believed that Pilate was a Christian at heart. The author of the text known as the *Didascalia apostolorum* (5.19.4) informs us that Pilate did not go along with the wicked deeds of the Jews. Augustine, the influential bishop of Hippo (354-430 AD) included Pilate among the prophets in one of his sermons (#201). These authors also provided details that are missing in our primary sources such as the name of Pilate's wife, Claudia Procula.[250] Claudia is a canonized saint in the Ethiopian Orthodox, and the Greek Orthodox Churches (Feast Day October 27th) and Pilate & Claudia are both canonized saints in the Coptic Church (Feast Day June 25th), for their parts in helping to rescue Jesus. Josephus recounted how an anonymous Samaritan gathered a following. He led a small group to Mount Gerizim where he claimed that he knew the Samaritan secrets and the very spot where Moses had hidden the holy vessels.[251]

He was going to reveal this secret hiding place and stand before the people as their new messiah. This incident occurred in 36 AD, three years after the crucifixion.

Gamaliel, a Pharisee, corroborates Josephus in *Acts* 5:36 when he also mentions a failed messianic leader (actually, there were several failed messiahs during this period. Perhaps Jayendra/Judas was among them). When Pilate heard what this man was up to, he sent a band of cavalry and footmen to intercept them at the village of Tirabatha. Some of them were killed and some were taken prisoners. Their leader escaped and Pilate issued a death sentence for him.



Saint Procula, wife of Pilate, venerated on a Greek Orthodox icon.

Why would relics of Moses hold any interest at all for Pilate? Why would he even want to protect the relics of Moses from them? This could happen only if Pilate knew the significance of this Rod. It did not belong in the hands of the Samaritans, but with Jesus. There are two key elements to this story.

First, this unnamed Samaritan was going to seize the relics and declare his Messiahship. That could only happen if he seized the Rod of Moses. Second, this incident occurred three years *after* crucifixion. Jesus was still alive and teaching his disciples in the region. Pilate must have been aware of this.

Soon after this incident, the Samaritan authorities claimed they were being unduly harassed by Pilate. They were just 'poor refugees'. They made it appear that Pilate used too heavy a hand on them through some 'misunderstandings.'

In a letter sent to Rome on behalf of Pilate,[252] there were also complaints made about the smug insolence of Caiaphas and the High priests. Pilate had complained to Rome that these priests were totally untrustworthy, insolent, arrogant, greedy, and self-serving. The Samaritans complained to Vitellius, who ordered Pilate to go to Rome, but by the time Pilate got there, Tiberius had died. The new emperor, Gaious, did not reappoint Pilate. What actually happened is unknown. Pilate may have accepted another commission, or simply retired peacefully and moved on to other things. The records of Pilate ended here.

DID THE CRUCIFIXION SUCCEED?

Do we really understand the resurrection of Jesus? There are more than 30 accounts, 12 contained within the New Testament, from people who saw Jesus after the crucifixion, alive and in the flesh. [253]The Christian interpretation is that he died for our sins, and through this act he redeemed our souls. However, this entire concept has been based on just one subtle mistranslation of *Isaiah* 53:5.

This passage does not say he was wounded *for* our transgressions, crushed *for* our inequities. Rather, the proper translation states that he was wounded *from* our transgressions, crushed *from* our inequities. The correct meaning is *not* that he suffered to "atone" for the sins of others, but that he suffered *because* of the sins of others. This difference is ever so subtle, yet crucial.

There are few descriptions of Jesus' physical appearance before the second and third centuries. John said in Revelations-

> *"Among the lampstands was someone like a Son of Man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire."*

John was describing the Jesus he had seen *after* the crucifixion; Jesus with white hair is identical with King Pravarasena, also remarkable for his shining long white hair (Rajatarangini). Pravarasena had a ceremonial sword that he was very fond of, and in Roza Bal tomb, the tomb we are associating with Jesus, is an ancient wooden sword, a ceremonial sword. It is embedded in a stone to hold it upright. Sound familiar? We'll return to this soon.



NEW TESTAMENT ACCOUNTS OF JESUS SURVIVAL

(1) Jesus remained on the cross for only a few hours (*Mark 15:25--- John 19:14*).

(2) The two men crucified with Jesus were still alive when taken down from the cross; the presumption is that Jesus too was alive.

(3) In the case of the two criminals, their legs were broken to hasten their deaths. Jesus' legs were not broken because he appeared to be dead already. *(John 19:32, 33).*

(4) When the side of Jesus was pierced, blood rushed out and this was a certain sign of life.

(5) Even Pilate did not believe that Jesus actually died in so short a time *(Mark 15:44).*

(6) Jesus was not buried like a criminal, but was given to Joseph of Arimathea. He and Nicodemus then took care of the body *(Mark 15:46).* Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus on the day that he was crucified. Joseph and Nicodemus prepared the body and placed it in the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid, but may have left before the stone was rolled over the entrance. It was only the next day that the chief priests and Pharisees asked Pilate to put a guard on the tomb and to make the tomb secure. No one knew at that time if Jesus was still in the tomb.

(7) When the tomb was seen on the third day, the stone was moved *(Mark 16:4)* which would not have been necessary if there had been a super-natural rising.

(8) Mary, when she saw him, took him for the gardener *(John 20:15)* Jesus had disguised himself.

(9) Such disguise was not needed if Jesus had risen from the dead. He most assuredly was very weak then, and yet took great risks to personally assure loved ones that he was alright.

(10) It was in the same body of flesh that the disciples saw Jesus, and the wounds were still raw enough to be touched and seen as mortal wounds. *(John 20:25–28)*

(11) He still felt hunger and ate what his disciples ate *(Luke 24:39 -43).*

(12) Jesus undertook a journey to Galilee with two of his disciples walking with him *(Matt. 28:10),* a physical journey to Galilee was not necessary to rise to heaven.

No one ever claimed they were seeing the ghost of Jesus after the crucifixion, except Saul (Paul.) After crucifixion Jesus was described by many as 'in the spirit', but the meaning is different. He was neither spirit nor ghost. Consider *Luke* 24:50-53-

Jesus '*was carried up into heaven.*'

This is very specific wording. This statement eliminates any possibility of this being a spiritual, self-generated ascension. This clearly indicates that Jesus had help, that he was *carried*. A spirit would not need to be 'carried.' The two angels in shining garments who appeared at the empty tomb were physical beings, not spirits. They assured everyone that Jesus was 'in a safe place' but they never mentioned 'heaven'. In the *Synoptic Gospel*, John 20:13, Magdalene is asked (in some accounts by the angels, in other accounts by Jesus disguised as a gardener)

'Why weepest thou?'

They were assuring her that there was no need for sadness. Jesus was alive. He was going to recover. The next appearance of Jesus came eight days later. Jesus said to the apostles in *Luke* 24:39-

> 'Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.'

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud (of dust? of light?) hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going-so what they saw had a physical form- when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

Acts 1:9-11-

> 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, *will come back in the same way* you have seen him go into heaven.'

The apostles did not understand ascension to mean that Jesus was no longer with them (dead). They did not express grief, fear, shock, or disappointment. Instead they returned to Jerusalem with great joy (*Luke* 24:52). That is not the emotion you feel when you have just lost your best friend through a horrific crucifixion. The ascension did not mean they lost something. Instead, they witnessed something really unusual and they knew it.

Many theologians insist such reports must be mythological in nature. However there is a dilemma with this kind of thinking. First, the accounts occur worldwide, both outside the Bible and within. In fact ancient UFO's are more widely accepted than modern sightings, which are really quite similar. In addition, throughout both the Old and the New Testaments, there is a constant warning against idolatry and making of gods and false deities. In all these encounters, it was not with imaginary or self-created gods and angels, but as eyewitness, first-hand accounts. God and the angels who show themselves to people are not made of their own minds and hands. If the 'pillar of cloud' from the Old Testament, or the 'bright cloud' at the Transfiguration were mythological, then the Hebrews would be guilty of idolatry according to their own strict standards of judgment.[254]

The initial verses of Acts support that Jesus died on the cross then rose from the dead. After his suffering, he (Jesus) showed himself to these men

and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:3-

> He (Jesus) was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight."

The twelve disciples were all sitting together and recalling what the Savior had said to each one of them, whether in secret or openly, and putting it in books - But I was writing that which was in my book - lo, the Savior appeared, after departing from us while we gazed after him.

And five hundred and fifty days since he had risen from the dead (a full year and half later) we said to him, "Have you departed and removed yourself from us?" But Jesus said, "No, but I shall go to the place from whence I came. If you wish to come with me, come!" They all answered and said, "If you ask us, we come."[255]

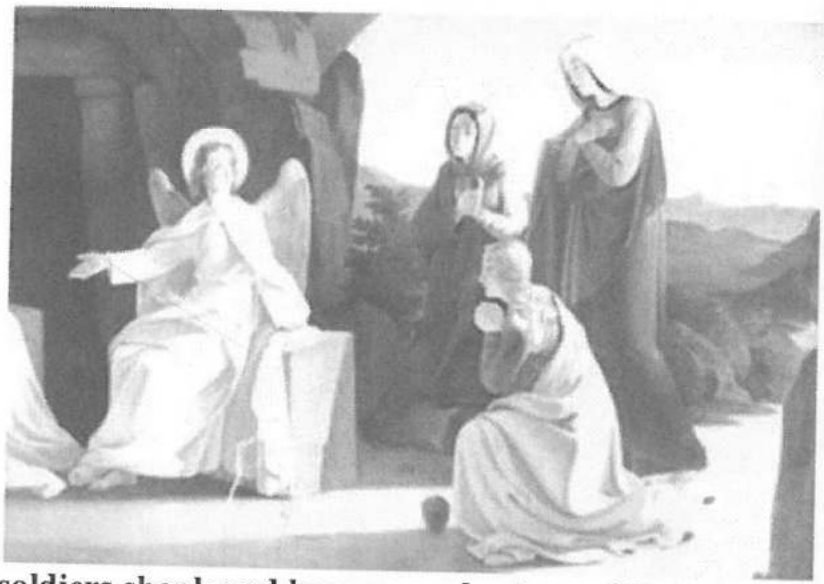
Acts 5:30-

> "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross."

The book of Acts has been most commonly dated to the second half of the 1st century. Norman Geisler dates it as early as between 60-62AD.

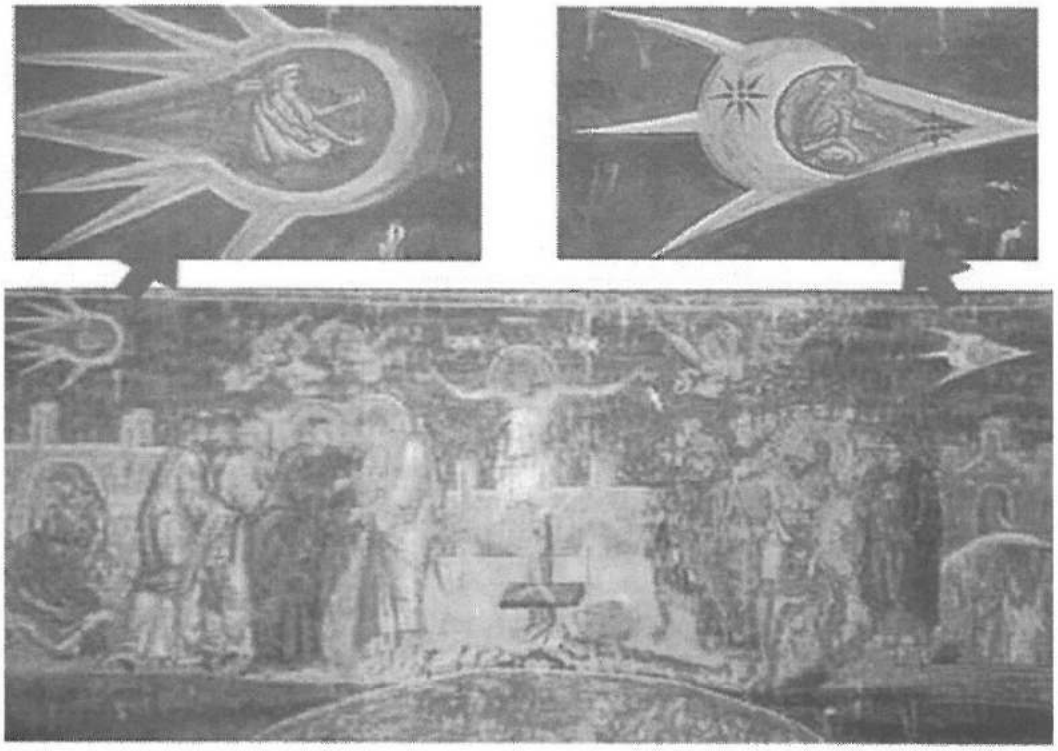
There is nothing in the Old Testament that speaks of a resurrected messiah because this was not a Hebrew concept, nor were the Jews showing any interest in following the saga of Jesus. It was a concept that began to appear in the New Testament.

Luke, Verse 40-Jesus said- "I am the same man with the same body that you saw on the cross."



Mathew 26:2-4- 'And behold there was a great earthquake, for the angel of the Lord descended from Heaven and rolled back the grave stone and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothes white as snow. For fear of him the soldiers shook and became as dead men.' Painting; 'The Three Marys at the Tomb of Christ' by von Carolsfeld.

Because Jesus survived crucifixion and returned from a 'near-death' experience, this has led Christians to hope that *all* bodies would be physically resurrected. The differences between Christian concepts and Buddhist concepts of Ascended Masters, rebirths, reincarnations, and resurrections become hopelessly blurred, and quite understandably so. Resurrections and reincarnations are not the same. The idea of resurrection suggests the entire physical body will somehow be restored after death, whereas reincarnation suggests that just the soul will go on for eternity. In Hinduism and Buddhism, the soul reincarnates again and again until it is perfected for nirvana, the final release from rebirths and the permanent entry into Heaven or eternal bliss.



"The Crucifixion" (1350), housed at the Visoki Decani Monastery in Kosovo, Yugoslavia. In the upper left and right corners, figures hovering in flight.

Theologians and critical thinkers outside the Church have pointed out that throughout Christian history the resurrection was not treated as central to the faith, but something that developed *in recent times*.

When the four canonic Gospels were written, from 70 CE to 110 CE, Jesus had been seen alive. Christians still believed that Jesus rose (or was taken) from the grave in his original body.

Claims for the appearance of a physical Jesus after the crucifixion, presented roughly in chronological order-

THE BIBLE

He appeared ten times: 1. To Mary Magdalene (John 20;11-18). 2. To the women at the grave (Matt.28; 9-10). 3. To Cleophas (Luke 24:18). 4. To Simon Peter (Luke 24: 34). 5. To all the disciples except Thomas (Luke 24: 36-49; John 20;19-23). 6. To the disciples, Thomas was with them (John 20; 24-29). 7. On the Mount (Matt. 28; 16-20). 8. On the Sea of Tiberias (John 21; 1-24). 9. At His Ascension (Mark 16;19, Luke 24; 50-53). 10. To the Five Hundred at once (I Cor. xv. 6). After His Ascension he appeared to Paul (Acts 9; 3-9; I Cor. 15; 3), and to Stephen (Acts 7; 55-60).

JOSEPHUS

Titus Flavius Josephus (37 – c. 100) also called Joseph ben Matityahu, was a first-century Roman-Jewish scholar, historian and hagiographer, who was born in Jerusalem— Written in Arabic, a copy of the Testimonium Flavianum Josephus, Antiquities 18. 63-64) translation was made by history Professor Shlomo Pines. Here, Josephus states that Jesus was alive after the crucifixion. He was resuscitated, described as a resurrection by the churches.

'At this time there was a wise man called Jesus. His conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. Many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon their loyalty to him. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion, and that he was alive. Accordingly they believed that he was the Messiah, concerning whom the Prophets have recounted wonders.'

JEWISH WARS 6; 2:2 (AUGUST 70 CE)-FLIGHT TO PELLA

Josephus also describes the A.D. 66-70 war in detail, especially in his *The Wars of the Jews*-

'As Josephus spoke these words, with groans and tears in his eyes, his voice was intercepted by sobs. However, the Romans could not but pity the affliction he was under, and wonder at his conduct. But for John and those that were with him, they were the more exasperated against the Romans on this account…they and the city were doomed to destruction. Some were there… watching for a proper opportunity when they might quietly get away… they fled to the Romans, of whom were the high priests Joseph and Jesus, and…the sons of high priests.'

Is this meant to suggest that Jesus was a high priest, and had his own sons with him? Sons of Jesus would be at least 35 years old by this time.

By this time, Christians were barely regarded as a new religion, one the Romans were beginning to distinguish from the Jews. During the War of the Jews, Christians were already separate from Jews and allowed safe passage to escape.

In addition, in this quote, it is clear that Josephus and the Romans acknowledged Jesus' survival from crucifixion. Jesus was never 'hiding' from the Romans, although he probably avoided the Jewish priests so as not to

antagonize them further. When Jesus was first arrested, he was taken to Annas who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas., who was high priest that year. *John 18:13, Matt 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-6.* The Romans were never seeking Jesus. That is quite clear. The priests however may have been annoyed at the outcome and continued seeking personal revenge. Jesus quickly learned the value of discretion and of remaining outside of the public eye, yet in full control.

IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

(circa 35 – 100 CE) Ignatius is generally considered one of the Apostolic Fathers (the earliest authoritative group of the Church Fathers). He is also a saint in the Catholic Church, and responsible for the first known use of the Greek word katholikos meaning 'universal' from which we derive the word Catholic, he left us several letters that are among the earliest surviving church documents written during the time that Jesus actually lived.

In his *Epistle to the Church at Smyrna* he wrote-

'I know and believe that he was in the flesh even after the Resurrection, and when he came to those with Peter he said: "Take, handle me and see that I am not a bodiless phantom." Origen quoted a similar passage from *The Gospel of Peter* (Jesus said to them) '*the son of man has risen from the sleep.*' (sleep as in a coma or shock.)

PISTIS SOPHIA-

THE FIRST BOOK OF PISTIS SOPHIA

CHAPTER 1-(Late First century to early second century-full text at sacred-texts.com) Jesus hitherto instructed his disciples only up to the regions of the First Mystery. It came to pass, when Jesus had risen from the dead, that he passed eleven years discoursing with his disciples, and instructing them. Then, on the 15th of Tobe (Tybi), the day of the full moon, a sudden glorious light invests Him, by which He is withdrawn from the view of His disciples and was carried up into heaven. The next day He returns to them, in order now finally to initiate them.

THE PILLARS AT THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON IN KASHMIR

Earlier we discussed the pillars at the Temple of Solomon in Kashmir that were carved by Jesus and Thomas and dated as 54 CE. The records at the court of Gondopharnes indicate they were also there approximately 42 AD, suggesting that Jesus or Thomas returned about twelve years later.

The inscriptions were in the Persian *Sulus* script. One inscription reads-

'In these times (of Gondopharnes)

Dareen waqt Hazrati Yuz Asaf da' wa-i-Paighambari mikund. Sal pinjah wa char, which translates to-

'He is Yasu (Issa) prophet of the children of Israel.'

The next inscription reads-

'Son of Marjan erected this pillar. The mason of this pillar is Bihishti Zargar.'

[256] (of Heaven- a priest or angel) Zargar (golden, someone shining in charac-

ter and a heavenly ornament-Thomas) Year 54' (adjusted from year 3154 of the Lukaka era.)

' Khwaja (Lord-Master-possibly priest- Jesus) Rukun (pillar of faith, an upright man of God) son of Marjan erected this pillar. Yuz Asaf proclaimed his prophethood. He is Jesus, prophet of the children of Israel.'

RAUZAT-us-SAFA by MIR MUHAMMAD BIN KHAWAND (1417 C.E.)

The Original Persian book is present at the Khilafat Library at Rabwah, Pakistan (Central Head Quarters of The Ahmadiyya Jama'at Pakistan), bearing the name the Rauza-tus-Safa by Mir Muhammad bin Khawand.. It has a print date 1271 (Hijri).

It has a chapter (based on older lost books) describing the predicaments, journeys and migration of Jesus Christ and mentions his traveling to Nasibain etc. with some of his disciples.

CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA (circa 150 to circa 215) HISTORY OF THE CHURCH 2:1

In the sixth book of Hypotyposes … The Lord, after his resurrection, imparted knowledge to James the Just, John, and Peter, and they imparted it to the rest of the apostles, and they imparted it to the seventy. In the case above, 'imparted' is used to denote direct contact down an ordinary chain of command. The apostles never communicated as spirits, or from the clouds, or any in way other than ordinary communications. Communications from Jesus, and from the apostles, are 'imparted' in ordinary ways, not spiritual or supernatural communications of any kind.

GOSPEL OF PHILIP (circa 180-350 CE)

(Selections) 'Those who say that the Lord died first and (then) rose up are in error, for he rose up first and (then) died.' In the Nag Hammadi Library, Jesus Christ is called 'Allogenes', which suggests 'alien', being genetically different although belonging to or obtained from the same species (From the Nag Hammadi translation by Wesley W. Isenberg[257]). The word is also used to describe foreigners/non-citizens as we would describe 'illegal aliens'. However, reading Allogenes, the author, it is clear that he was with 'angels' or beings not of this world, and he is clearly referring to them (texts available at many online web sites).

EUSEBIUS OF CAESAREA (circa 263-339 CE)

When he wrote his *Ecclesiastical History*, the primary concern of Eusebius was to accurately maintain historical records before they disappeared, before eyewitnesses might be killed, before libraries might be burned during the next persecution. He faithfully transcribed the most important existing documents of his day, thus enabling later generations to have a collection of factual history about the first three centuries of Christianity.

Eusebius' *Ecclesiastical History* is one of the classics of early Christianity, standing in equal stature with the historical works of Josephus. One thing that

Eusebius mentions, from the writings of Hegesippus, is how the royal Jews prided themselves on their well-kept genealogies and their illustrious ancestry. He said of the War of 70 AD-

'Now this sect of Nazarenes exists in Beroea in Coele-Syria, and in Decapolis in the district of Pella, and in Kochaba of Basanitis-- called Kohoraba in Hebrew. For thence it originated after the migration from Jerusalem of all the disciples who resided at Pella, Christ having instructed them to leave Jerusalem and retire from it on account of the impending siege. It was owing to this counsel that they went away-to reside for a while at Pella. '(Haer 29:7)

ASKEW CODEX (PISTIS SOPHIA) (circa 250-300 CE)

This text describes events between Jesus, the Marys, and his disciples, in 44 CE, 11 years *after* the crucifixion. Jesus promises to take his disciples to see 'Heaven' and the spheres, but was never able to fulfill this promise. After these years with his disciples, he sent them on missions to build churches and gain followers. Jesus himself is witnessed by them ascending in something 'giving off a very bright light.'

PANARION (circa 374-376 CE)

Bishop of Salamis, Panarion 29:7:7-8-

'The Nazorean sect exists in Beroea near Coele Syria, in the Decapolis near the region of Pella, and in Bashan in the place called Cocaba, which in Hebrew is called Chochabe...all the disciples were living in Pella after they moved from Jerusalem, since Christ told them to leave Jerusalem and withdraw because it was about to be besieged. For this reason, they settled in Peraea and there they lived. This is where the Nazorean sect began.'

THE RAJATARANGINI (circa 1147 – 1149 CE)

The excerpt below has been taken from the Sanskrit translation notes of the *Rajatarangini* by Jogesh Chunder Dutt-

'Sandimatti was taken illegally in the middle of the night. He died impaled by orders of Jayendra. His religious instructor, named Ishana (Sanskrit, derived from Isan/bestower of riches, or Isana/ leader-ruler: often identified with the deity Shiva. Could also refer to Jesus) went to that place of death to perform the last ceremonies. He found the body fixed to a stake and reduced to a skeleton. He carried the corpse away from there. On the corpse, forehead words (titulus.) proclaimed that he was a king who would return to rule. As Ishana guarded the corpse and wondered how this could be, he then saw yoginis coming in a bright light. They took the skeleton away with them. Ishana tried to run after them with a sword in his hands, afraid they were stealing the skeleton and depriving him of a proper burial.

He found them restoring the corpse. He smelled strong perfumes and burning incense. Then, when Sandimatti recovered, he was dressed in radiant new clothes. When the people heard of this, many gathered to see Sandimatti but his appearance was so altered that they suspected it was someone else. They asked him personal questions and soon realized he knew the most intimate

details and was the same man who spoke with them prior to his hanging on the stake.'

This crucified man Sandimatti was also known as the 'white raja', the Prince or King of the Aryans. He was a Chief Minister, a common position for young princes in training, waiting to rule their own kingdoms. Upon his hanging, the sign on his head (titulus) predicted that one day he would be coronated as king. This entire story correlates with the crucifixion of Jesus. Kalhana may have mixed up the persons of Joseph and Jesus. If both held the title of Sandimatti, this confusion is easily understandable. Clues exist that help us, such as the dates that Sandimatti served in Kashmir, which, during the first term, is 20 years before the birth of Jesus. That *must* be Joseph, father of Jesus. He was not a simple carpenter after all. Geza Vermes[258] has stated that the terms 'carpenter' and 'son of a carpenter' are used in the Jewish Talmud to signify a very learned man, and he suggests that a description of Joseph as 'naggar' (a carpenter) could indicate that he was considered wise and highly literate in the Torah. By this interpretation, Joseph could have served as a member of the Sanhedrin, or as a Chief Minister to the usurper king Jayendra.

AFTERMATH OF THE CRUCIFIXION

In many modern dramas written about the crucifixion, they end with Mother Mary and Magdalene fleeing immediately to France. In some versions, Magdalene is pregnant and fleeing in fear for her life and her unborn child. In another version, the child is already born. Her name is Sarah. I don't believe any of this happened. Flee from whom, from what? The Romans? There was no need to flee. No one was 'chasing' them or threatening them or any other Christians. Sure, a few Christians were punished from time to time, but so were people of other faiths. That is not the same as genocide.

Tiberius Caesar was the Emperor who actually did the most to spread the name of Christ abroad. Tertullian, second century Christian author, alleged that Tiberius Caesar presented evidence of Christ's divinity to the Roman Senate following the crucifixion. When the Roman Senate rejected the proposal to honor Christ, Caesar threatened wrath against all who harassed Christians. Tertullian's story about Tiberius is interesting, but incredible. It was the Jews who were despised at the time of Christ, not the Christians. He goes on to point out that Nero was the first emperor to persecute Christians. Tiberius threatened death to anyone who harassed or persecuted members of this new faith. The reign of Tiberius ended when he died in 37 C.E. The daughter of his third wife Julia was Claudia Procula, the wife of Pontius Pilate, and it was she who sent the message to her husband, "Do not harm that just man" (*Matthew 27:19*). Tiberius listened to his daughter's passionate pleas for justice. Tiberius did not harass or threaten Jesus nor any disciples

nor any converts to Christianity during his lifetime, nor did he tolerate anyone else persecuting them.

The next brief reign of four years for Caligula was also not marked by any hostility towards the Christians. Caligula died in A.D. 41 and was succeeded by Claudius who reigned for thirteen years. It was the hostilities from the Palestinian Jews towards the Christians that started the real troubles.

The first emperor who deliberately set out to persecute Christians was Nero (54-68). In the year 64 a fire swept through Rome. Many blamed Nero and, attempting to avoid suspicion, he blamed Christians. What resulted was a local (Rome only) persecution of Christians. The persecution was so severe, though, that the Roman Tacitus wrote-

> "Although they were criminals who deserved the most severe punishment [because they practiced a 'new' religion not because they started the fire], yet a feeling of pity arose since they were put to death not for the public good but to satisfy the rage of an individual [Nero]."

The first real empire-wide persecution of Christians occurred under Domitian (81-96) (The Apostle John was placed on the island of Patmos during the reign of Domitian.) The next emperor, Nerva (96-98), reversed Domitian's policy, resulting in a brief stay of only 18 months on an exceptionally beautiful island, more like a resort-spa. John was so relaxed and inspired that he wrote the Book of Revelations there. Some scenes are so clear that even today one can stand there, look at the view, and see exactly the landscape that John was describing.

The next 200+ years were periods of persecution interspersed with periods of apathy towards several religions at different times. Christianity fared no better, or worse, than others.

Christianity spread rapidly from A. D. 30 until the fourth century, when it was legalized. The sudden and rapid rise of Christianity during this time period is one of the most amazing events in all of human history. In less than two centuries after the death of Christ, Tertullian could already say, "We are but of yesterday, and yet we have filled every place among you—cities, islands, fortresses, towns, market places, the very camps, tribes, companies palace, senate, and forum. We have left nothing to you but the temples of your gods." A decade earlier, Clement of Alexandria had written, "The whole world, along with Athens and Greece, has already become the domain of the Word."[259]

To be sure, other religions have sometimes spread rapidly—such as Islam in the seventh and eighth centuries. However, Islam spread quickly through use of the sword. Most of its converts did not convert willingly. The rise of Christianity was entirely without the use of the sword.

When did Christians first begin to use force to convert people?

Soon after the conversion of the Roman emperor Constantine, the first use of force was not designed to convert anyone, but to unite dissident Christians. Augustine, the great bishop of Hippo in North Africa in the late fourth and early fifth century, was faced with a dissident sect, the Donatists. Augustine wanted to bring them back in the orthodox fold, and he agonized about whether it was permissible to use coercion to do so.

Eventually he decided it was, and one biblical text that persuaded him was the parable of the great banquet (*Luke 14:16-24*). A rich man gives a feast, and when no one he invites shows up, he tells his servants to go out and "Compel people to come in."

It isn't until the Frankish kingdom of Charlemagne in the eighth century that we see force used to coerce conversions, specifically in the campaign against the Saxons. Robert Moore, author of *The Rise of the Persecuting Society*, argues that from the eleventh to the fourteenth century, European Christian society became much less tolerant. This is the era when we see the first persecution of Jews and heretics, and the increasing acceptance of forcible conversion. This change in attitude was in direct response to Islam's horrific forced conversions of Christians, Jews, and Hindus.[260]

Before Islam, Christianity spread so fast that it eventually conquered the Roman Empire itself—without the sword, coercion, or any kind of violence.

Church historian Philip Schaff wrote, "Christianity rises far above all other religions in the theory and practice of virtue and piety.

It sets forth the highest standard of love to God and to man. …The wisest men of Greece and Rome sanctioned slavery, polygamy, concubinage, oppression, revenge, infanticide; or they belied their purer maxims by their conduction."

Romans valued many qualities of Christianity; honesty, faithfulness in marriage, kindness and love to neighbors, and trustworthiness. Further, the foundations of Christianity were put in place by Jesus the Rabbi, the Teacher. Christians have valued education and equality based on his example. Schaff wrote, "Deeds speak louder than words. The finest systems of moral philosophy have not been able to regenerate and conquer the world."[261] One of the Christian apologists declared to the Romans, "We don't speak great things, we live them!" And Roman society took note. Tertullian reported that the Romans would exclaim, "See how they love one another!" Christianity rapidly became the gold standard by which all other religions were compared and modeled upon, chiefly because of its fairness, equality, emphasis on education, and simplicity.

RESURRECTION AND TRINITY

Where Christianity perhaps deviates most from other faiths is in the belief that Jesus died for all mankind's sins. The basic beliefs of all Christians are-

-Belief in God the Father, Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Holy Spirit.

- Christ's second coming, the Day of Judgment and salvation of the faithful.

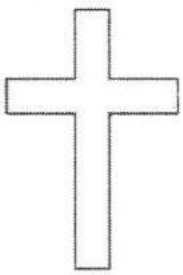
Christians consider the resurrection of Jesus to be the cornerstone of their faith and the most important event in human history. Among Christian beliefs, the death and resurrection of Jesus are two core events on which much of Christian doctrine and theology is based. According to the New Testament Jesus was crucified, died a physical death, was buried in a tomb, and rose from the dead three days later. The New Testament mentions several resurrection appearances of Jesus on different occasions to his twelve apostles and disciples, including "more than five hundred brethren at once" [*1 Cor. 15:6*] before Jesus' Ascension to heaven (which could have happened in three days, or fifty years later.) His death and resurrection are commemorated by Christians in all worship services.

If Jesus survived the crucifixion, and we have confused the terms resuscitation and resurrection, does this negate the entire Christian experience?

If Jesus did survive the crucifixion, this means the Resurrection did not happen. No Resurrection, no Christianity.

Has Christianity become an outdated doctrine to be cast aside like a childhood belief in Santa Clause? Not necessarily, for behind the dogmas and misinterpretations, there once existed a real man with a real adventure of a life, and a sterling example for mankind. Was he bringing mankind messages from a galactic community, preparing the way for us to join them one day? Many modern principals are based upon the teachings and the example of his life. The sign of those values and that influence is represented by the symbol of the cross.

Religious and spiritual experiences appear to have been hard-wired into humanity's genetic legacy, suggesting that they played an adaptive role during human evolution. Religion, for example, fosters group discipline and could have given hunter-gatherers an advantage for survival as they grouped together both for worship and for defense against their enemies. If religious and spiritual experiences are part of humanity's genetic heritage, both social scientists and philosophers need to realize that "God won't go away." [262] And neither will Jesus, not for a very very long time.



WORLD RELIGIONS-FOUNDATIONS AND VIEWS OF CHRISTIANITY

The main world religions are generally classified as Abrahamic, Indian or Taoic (Oriental-Far Eastern). They each include stories of creation and Humanism. What began as Indo-Iranian (Aryan) religions evolve into Indo-European religions. These include Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism.

Other largely extinct Indo-European religions that shared a common history include Zoroastrianism, ancient Greek, Celtic, Roman, Hittite, Slavic and Norse mythology. Jesus resembles a handful of other gods, not only Greek, but from the entire Mesopotamian region. Dionysus, Hercules, Perseus, etc., were also born of a virgin. Attis, Tammuz, Osiris, El, etc., died, and then rose again (either in a literal or symbolic sense).

Criticism of Christianity from Jewish, Muslim, and, to lesser degree Hindu theologians, criticize the doctrine of the Trinity, stating that Christians do not worship one God, but three.



Hinduism had no founder, but has become an organized pantheon of 250,000 gods (Ishvaras) depicted in humanoid or partially humanoid forms, complete with a set of unique and complex iconography and one primary deity, that is Brahma. Around 1500 BC several waves of Aryan immigration took place in north west India. Many of the names of the Indo-Aryan deities (e.g. Agni, Indra, Varuna) are almost synonymous with deities in Persian, Greek and Roman mythology. Through a slow process of hybridization, the Indo-Aryan deities were merged into the many local cults.

There exist significant similarities in Christian and Hindu theology, most notably in that both religions present a Trinitarian view of God.

The Holy Trinity of Christianity, consisting of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, is sometimes seen as roughly analogous to the Trimurti of Hinduism, whose members -- Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva—are seen as the three principal manifestations of Brahman, or Godhead.

In Hinduism (also in Jainism and Sikhism), the concept of moksha is akin to that of Buddhism's nirvana and Christianity's doctrine of salvation.

Christian-Hindu relations are a mild affair. On one hand, Hinduism's natural tendency has been to recognize the divine basis of various other religions, and to revere their founders and saintly practitioners. On the other hand, perceptions of aggressive proselytism on the part of some Christian groups have led to occasional incidents of anti-Christian violence, often fueled by Hindu nationalist political parties.

Christian roots are in Judaism, a monotheism that was-and still is- waiting for the Messiah. The Messiah has been prophesied in Scripture with great specificity, though sometimes hidden and sometimes allegorical and poetic - beginning with Genesis 3:15. Jews do not believe that Jesus was divine, the Son of God, or the Messiah prophesied in Jewish scriptures. He is someone who ultimately did not meet the requirements laid out in Jewish beliefs.
According to Jewish scripture and belief, the true Messiah must meet the following requirements-
He must-

-Be an observant Jewish man descended from the house of King David.
-Be an ordinary human being (not the Son of God)
-Bring peace to the world.
-Gather all Jews back into Israel
-Rebuild the ancient Temple in Jerusalem.
-Unite humanity- worship God and Torah observance.

Because Jesus (and Muhammad) did not meet these requirements, from the Jewish perspective neither could be the Messiah. Jesus is not regarded as a major figure in Jewish history, nor is he even mentioned. A historical connection from a Roman soldier named Pantera as father of Jesus has been hypothesized by James Tabor, based on the claim of the ancient Greek philosopher Celsus. The hypothesis is considered extremely unlikely by mainstream scholars, given that there is no evidence to support it.

The modern Catholic Church takes the position that the Bible is allegory and it does not insist on the literal, inflexible truth of the Bible. No other religion today has been so flexible and adaptive. This may be the reason Christianity continues to thrive, attracting millions of converts yearly. Many more Muslims would rather convert but are afraid of consequences from their own Muslim communities. Many Muslims have a hard time accepting the fact that there are converts from Islam to Christianity.

Islam claims to believe in the same God as Jews and Christians, the God of Abraham, revealed in the Old Testament.

Buddha's teachings may have come directly from earlier Hebrew Scriptures. The proverbs of the Buddha (the Dhammapada[263]) bear widespread similarities to the Book of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes of King Solomon, who lived three and a half centuries before the Buddha. These sayings are also reflected in the sayings of LaoTzu, Krishna and even further back to the wisdom of Aristotle and Socrates. All were struggling to explain how man is more than just another animal on the planet. Man has a greater destiny. The emphasis that Buddhists are noted for were all part of Solomon's beliefs, including peace, tolerance, viewing this world as an illusion and a place of suffering, overcoming ignorance with wisdom and enlightenment. As a Jewish rabbi, Christ also knew Solomon's writings. Jesus was not being

influenced by Buddhism, but Buddhism was certainly being influenced by Judaism, and by Jesus.

Jesus was practicing Judaism in its original, intended form, and this was mistaken as a form of Buddhism. Within Mahayana Buddhism, the legendary Bodhisattva 'Avalokitesvara', first mentioned in the Lotus Sutra (approx. 1st century AD), was based upon the person of Jesus (Isvara, "lord", "ruler", "sovereign" or "master", is also used to describe Krishna and Siva in Hinduism.)

Unlike fundamentalist traditions in other denominations and religious traditions, the modern Catholic Church does not insist on the literal truth of Biblical text - particularly where it contradicts what can be established by science and reason. The Church contends that natural reason, being a God-given capacity, is not opposed to the Church's teachings and the church therefore holds that its role throughout most of history has led to progress of science and intuitive reasoning.

The fall of Rome, the 'Dark Ages,' the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, through all this the Church scholars and missionaries played the most vital role in preserving knowledge and Classical Learning.

For centuries, monastic settlements were the only bastions of literacy. From the Essene schools during Jesus' era, to the clerical and monastic schools founded in his name in the first century, schools and education have always been an integral part of Christianity. Christian convents and orders for nuns and teachers were founded during the first century that permitted a rare avenue for women to pursue scholarship. The Church acted as patron for some of Europe's most advanced engineering achievements. Historically, the Catholic Church has been a major sponsor of astronomy, not least due to the astronomical basis of the calendar by which holy days and Easter are determined.

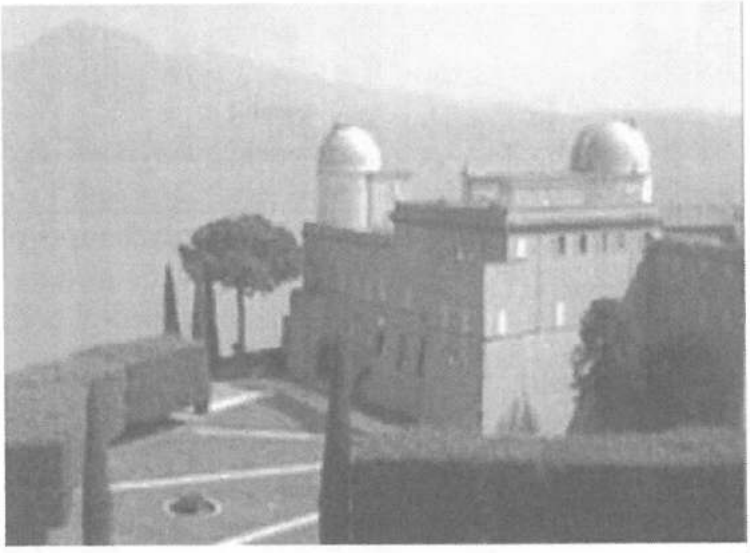
The Vatican has invested in the Space Age by educating its top priests as physicists and astronomers, eagerly facing the future as part of a grander, more universal space community. No other religion on earth comes close to such active participation in science and physics.

The Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope began making observations in Arizona in 1995. Many distinguished scholars have worked at the Observatory. In 2008, the Templeton Prize was awarded to cosmologist Fr. Michal Heller, a Vatican Observatory Adjunct Scholar. In 2010, the George Van Biesbroeck Prize was awarded to former observatory director Fr. George Coyne, SJ. The Big Bang model, or theory, is now the prevailing cosmological theory of the early development of the universe and was first proposed by Belgian priest Georges Lemaitre, astronomer and professor of physics at the Catholic University of Louvain.

Lemaître was a pioneer in applying Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity to cosmology. Lemaitre theorized in the 1920s that the universe

began as a geometrical point which he called a "primeval atom", which exploded out and has been moving apart ever since. The idea became established theory only decades later with the discovery of cosmic background radiation by American scientists. The Pontifical Academy of Sciences was founded in 1936 by Pope Pius XI. The Academy has an international membership which includes British physicist Stephen Hawking and Nobel laureates such as U.S. physicist Charles Hard Townes.

Science and religion ask different questions; science inquires as to "how?" while religion queries "why?" The Church has struggled with the simplest questions because one of its deepest most profound mysteries is the soul; does it have a physical form, even if that is as small as a photon of light? At what moment is there a 'soul'...at conception, or at birth, or at some event after? Do only humans have souls, or do all biological life forms have souls? Is abortion a murder because a fetus already has a soul? How and when is a soul acquired? Does a soul exist both during life and beyond (immortality)? Is it something physical? Science and religion both struggle in search of the answers. Whatever a soul is or isn't, spirituality seems hard-wired into humans, something acquired long ago in our evolutionary past and likely to be with us far into our future. The crucifixion marked a turning point for mankind, a new interpretation of what life, death, and souls are all about.



Vatican. Observatory is one of the oldest astronomical research institutes in the world. Many Catholic priests have become astronomers, cosmologists, and physicists with support of the Vatican. Headquarters are at the Papal summer residence in Castle Gandolfo, Italy (outside Rome). The Vatican Observatory Research Group is hosted by Steward Observatory at the University of Tucson, Arizona. They operate the 1.8 m Alice P. Lennon Telescope inside the Bannon Astronomy Facility, known as the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope (VATT)



Do you really believe that
Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory,
plans to be a loser in history? Gary North

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN-OR CAPTAIN OF THE STAR FLEET?

It has become mainstream to speak openly about UFO's and ancient aliens as the source for Biblical literature. From Zechariah Sitchen and Eric Von Daniken, and even TV episodes of "Ancient Aliens' it is now a mainstream topic. However, when it comes to the Bible, and especially to Jesus, we have that mental 'disconnect' again; someone who willingly accepts UFO probabilities places Jesus in an entirely different category where such theories have no place. Jesus' life must be explained in some other way. I disagree. Let's go in search of Jesus' kingdom in heaven as it is on earth.

In the New Testament Jesus is referred to as the 'King of the Jews' both at the beginning of his life (*Matthew 2:1–12*) and at the end. (*John 18:33-37*) In the New Testament, the 'King of the Jews' title is applied to Jesus only by the gentiles, namely by the Magi, Pontius Pilate, and the Roman soldiers. In contrast, the Jewish leaders used the designation 'King of Israel' or 'King of the Judeans.'

John 18:36-37-

> *36-*'My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world then my servants would fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but my kingdom is not from hence.'
>
> *37-* Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered; Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world.'

"Not of this world"? Gabriel, an angel, appeared to Mary before the conception and birth of Jesus. Gabriel was not of this world. Where is this 'other world'? Where is the kingdom of heaven?

Jesus, like Enoch, spoke of the Universe from a different perspective, from his own firsthand knowledge acquired through his ascensions. The concept of an 'angel' comes from the Greek 'aggelos' –and Latin 'angelus' ('malakh' in the Tanakh and Quran) meaning "one going forth" or "one leading"- such as a messenger. Angels, just like men and women, are created beings.

The word "giants" in the King James Bible is the Hebrew "Nephilim-Those who fell, or ... the fallen ones". Jude, the brother of Jesus describes them as "angels having left their first estate in heaven." Angels looked like us. They moved among us indistinguishable-not frightening, or threatening in any way. Wings are the symbol of flight-of someone or something coming from the sky or the heavens. They arrived in a variety of ways, but none was ever described like a Big Bird flapping big wings. Wings are symbolism to distinguish these beings from earthly beings. Wings suggest flight but the physical appearance of angels never included wings. Wings are allegory. Wings are symbolism for something else.

Jared, or Jered (Hebrew: ירד, 'descent' or 'to descend'), in Judeo-Christian religious belief, was a fifth-generation descendant of Adam and Eve. His son was Enoch. During his lifetime the angels of the Lord who were called Watchers descended to earth upon the mount of Hermon. Hermon also means "to swear" as the Watchers "swore" to take wives of human women, which was forbidden by God. The Watchers had sons by human women called "The Nephilim" or "fallen ones"...(also referred to as the Giants). The Watchers taught their wives and sons forbidden and secret knowledge that corrupted the hearts and minds of mankind. This eventually led to the destruction of the first world through the flood of Noah.

How do you visualize these ascents and descents if no one had wings?

> *Acts 1:9-* He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.' (cloud could mean smoke, dust, or bright lights.)



An angel comforting Jesus by Carl Heinrich Bloch.

Clouds and wings are allegory. One of the early church Fathers, Chrysostom, said this was "the royal chariot sent for (Jesus) to take Him home". Why would a spiritual being need *any* form of transportation to physically 'carry' him? The word 'spirits' does not imply something with a physical form. Can *spirits* be held in a vessel and carried at all? When he made ascensions, and when the angels visited him, or Mother Mary, or Moses, were these the same angels that took Enoch into space? What was Enoch's experience with them?

Book of Enoch-'(written down 300 BCE)

> The angels showed me, and from them I heard everything, and from them I understood as I saw, but not for this generation, but for a remote one which is to come.... where [Enoch] lived, and what had become of him- had to do with the Watchers, and his days were with the holy ones... I saw the chambers of the sun and moon, whence they proceed and whither they come again, and their glorious return, and their stately orbit.'

Planets going around in *orbits* weren't discovered until Johannes Kepler began to work that out nearly 3,000 years later, and we still had centuries to go after that before the first modern flight.

One of the earliest preserved records of flight is in the Babylonian set of laws, the Halkatha, which contains the passage-

> "To operate a flying machine is a great privilege. Knowledge of flying is our most ancient gift from the gods of old for saving lives".

The Babylonian "Epic of Etana" describing prehistoric flight is preserved in text and cuneiform dating back to a period between 3,000 and 2,400 B.C.
The Hindu Samaranga Sutadhara contains 230 stanzas that are devoted to flight. It describes in detail, every possible aspect of flying. The International Academy of Sanskrit Research in Mysore, India, conducted a study of the ancient texts and published its findings in a book called *'Aeronautics, a Manuscript from the Prehistoric Past.'*
The following are excerpts from the text-

> 'The aircraft which can go by its own force like a bird - on the earth or water or through the air - that can travel in the sky from place to place is called a Vimana by the sage of old.'

The Bhardwaj divides aerial aircraft in three classes-

1. Those that travel from place to place;
2. Those that travel from one country to another;
3. Those that travel between planets.

There are sources in India that mention flying and ascensions. These include The Vedas, Ramayana, Mahabharata (Dronaparva), and the Mahavira of Bhavabhuti, a Jain text of the eighth century culled from older texts. Bhavabhuti was a Brahman priest of the eighth century AD.

If alien life presents itself to the world, proving that there is other life in outer space, then Bible scriptures will have served a valuable purpose. The existence of aliens in outer space doesn't refute scripture at all. In fact, scripture strongly *supports* the idea that there is life in outer space. And repeatedly describes these other civilizations. Jesus also spoke of these places and these other civilizations. The Bible may be intended as mankind's handbook, a guide, an introduction and awareness to our future of co-existence with others.

Matthew 6:10- 'On earth as it is in Heaven' may be one of the most profound statements ever made in any scriptures.

The problems with interpretations are the result of man's fallible misunderstandings of events he was witnessing before he understood the technology being applied.

The word 'gospel' appears almost 100 times in the New Testament. The word is translated from two similar Greek words, both meaning good news or message.

The word kingdom appears more than 150 times in the Bible. The concept of a kingdom, thought to be synonymous with the mythical place called 'heaven', is also a description of sovereignty, of a universal ascendancy, referring to the position of the highest order of beings in existence, the

Elohim, the 'gods'. Were they real physically? The apostles saw them so they had a physical form. The apostles even wanted to join Jesus on his ascensions with them.

Jesus, the son of El, may have been part of a universal royal family. Paul and John spoke about Jesus as though he had some kind of preexistent life and half the world expects him to return to earth again.

We know that this is possible in several ways. According to Einstein, he can live for thousands of years in space yet barely age, while generations here lived and died during the same time. One year at the speed of light, or jumping through wormholes does not have the same effect on a man as living at the gravity and rotational speed of earth. Jesus could be cloned or reborn from frozen sperm. His body could have been frozen in cryogenesis. There *are* ways he might return and fulfill the prophecies.

According to Jesus, the destiny of mankind is to join the majestic family of the Elohim, the most powerful race of beings in the universe. The word "God" in Hebrew is Elohim. El means God and "im" means one God with a plurality (Son and Holy Spirit).

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

There is an interesting divergence between the way the Quran and the Gospels present the genealogies of Jesus. In the Gospels, the genealogies seem to be chiefly intended to show that Jesus came from the royal house of David. In the Quran, however, Christ's genealogy offers a different set of Old Testament figures than any of the Gospels. These figures are not from the kingly line but from the line of prophets.

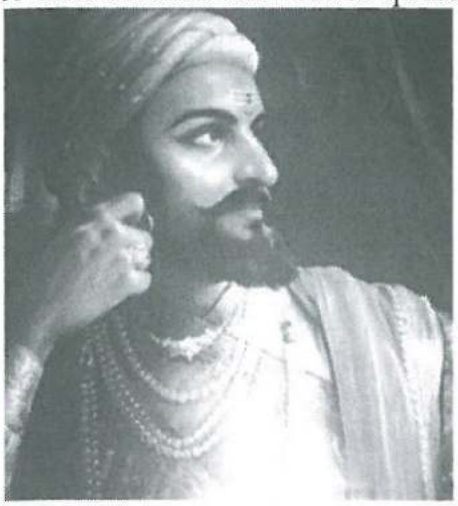
This variation between the two texts parallels the different teachings about Christ. Within Christianity, Christ is the Son of God and a descendant from the royal line of David. In the Quran, however, Christ is a great prophet, but is not considered divine. The names we find in Jesus' genealogy are also associated with much of the history of Central Asia, and may be connected with his father Joseph's lineage and his mother, Mary's ancestors of prophets.

Although many Hebrew kings, priests, and prophets were known in the Roman Empire, Pilate never felt threatened by Jesus. That's why we can rule out the Roman Empire as the location of Jesus' kingdom. Both at the beginning of his life, and at the end, it was specified that he was King of the Jews. We have to search for his kingdom where there is a significant Jewish population unaffected by Rome.

Earlier we found colonies of Jews in India that had migrated along the Silk Road during several diaspora.

Rabbi Yaakov Kleiman wrote '*DNA and Tradition: The Genetic Link to the Ancient Hebrews*.' It chronicles the latest discoveries in the cutting-edge field of molecular 'Population Genetics.' From these DNA studies arose the

Cohen Modal Haplotype (CMH). Using DNA analysis, it has become possible to find definite answers to questions of Biblical tradition and genealogy.



Through DNA studies, the "Jewishness' of certain populations have been identified worldwide. During the 'Age of Discovery' European explorers attempted to connect many people to the Ten Lost Tribes, sometimes with intent to introduce Christian missionaries. The first person claiming to identify the lost tribes with an East Asian nation was João Rodriguez (1561-1634), a Jesuit missionary and interpreter. In 1608, he argued that the even the Japanese and Chinese descended from the Lost Tribes of Israel. He believed that the Chinese sages Confucius and Lao-tse took their ideas from Judaism. Similar ideas arose about the Lost Tribes first settling Britain or discovering America (Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormons, propagated this idea widely). There are so many groups worldwide claiming Jewish origins and seeking to immigrate to Israel that Israel itself now demands DNA testing of all applicants. This development is the surest sign yet that Jewishness is not a cultural construct, but a biological one. Aliya means 'Going Up'- referring to the return of Jews to Zion (Israel), a term first used in the Book of Ezra when Jews were freed by Cyrus after the Babylonian exile.

The Roman Empire was modeled after the Achaemenid-Persian Dynasty. Rome soon became famous as the great road-builders, and Roman roads ran to every corner of the Empire. Trade prospered (and brought in taxes) wherever there were reliable roads. Sooner or later all towns and cities well beyond the Roman Empire were connected by elaborate road systems, leading to the famous phrase; 'All roads lead to Rome'. For Jesus to travel from Judea to India was not a hardship but an ordinary commute, made according to the seasons and preparedness to defend oneself from the occasional bandits.

Rulers boasted their status and presence with great statutes and monuments to impress travelers who would carry these wonderful experiences to all corners of the world. Edicts carved in rocks told of laws and advertised the availability of medicines and schools in this or that fine kingdom.

The roads paralleled access to water for the animals. Small trading posts sprung up in villages about every ten miles, places to rest safely for the night, repair broken wagon wheels, or barter for a horse or on to replace any that were sick, injured, or had died. Bazaars and village tea shops were places to prepare for the weather ahead, or avoid wars and epidemics. Women could meet other women, and children could play. Many of these ancient trails are major highways that we still travel today.

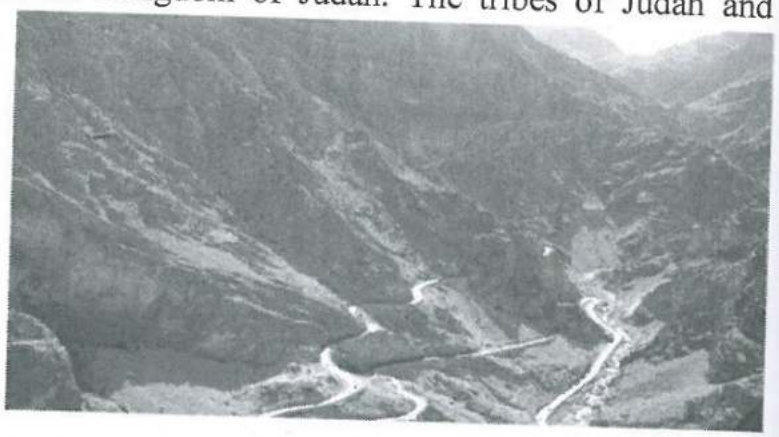
HEBREW AFGHANS

At various times in history, Israel fell under the Babylon, Assyrian, Persian and Roman empires. During Jesus' lifetime, the Romans ruled the Jews of Judea, but not the Jews in Afghanistan and India, then known as Parthia.

Note: Both the BBC and the American History Channel have featured Documentaries about the 'Lost Tribes" in Afghanistan. Many can be viewed anytime online at sites like 'YouTube.'

The biblical patriarch Jacob wrestled an angel on the shores of the River Jabbok and he was given the name 'Israel'. Throughout the rest of the Torah, Jacob is referred to at times as both Jacob and Israel, depending on which aspect of his character the text means to convey. In modern Hebrew, B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) can denote the Jewish people at any time, any place in history. Many Afghans, although now converts to Islam, still identify themselves this way.

The first three kings of Israel, Saul, David, and Solomon, reigned over ALL the tribes, but after Solomon's reign, their kingdom divided: ten of the tribes went north as the Kingdom of Israel, and two of the tribes, Judah and Benjamin, went south as the Kingdom of Judah. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin first acknowledged Jesus as a King.



Khyber Pass-Peshawar (Purushpura) Afghanistan.

The magi were everywhere that the Persian and Roman Empires existed, but the magi we are searching for came 'from the east', not the north or south. Where is 'east'? Of course that depends upon your starting point on the globe. From the viewpoint of the Roman Empire and Judea, 'East' is a term that broadly defines Central Asia, India, the Himalayas, Kashmir and China.

The Roman province of Asia Minor or Asiana, in Byzantine times called Phrygia, was an administrative unit that had nothing to do with Central Asia. To get to Asia Minor, one would go in the opposite direction of 'east'. One would travel west to the Mediterranean. The apostle John stayed on the island of Patmos (Paphos) in Asia Minor. Asia or Central Asia is a different place geographically.

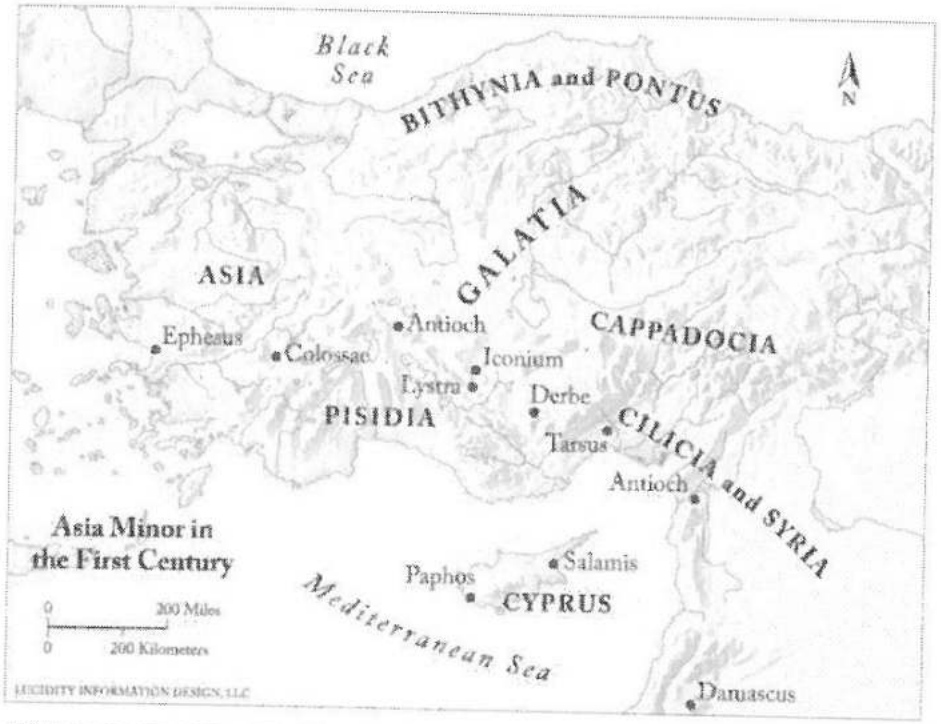
Many present-day Afghans are Pashtun. According to their own tradition, their ancestor was Afghana., son of Jeremiah (son of Hilkiah, a kohen (Jewish priest descended from Abraham.) A recently discovered cache of medieval

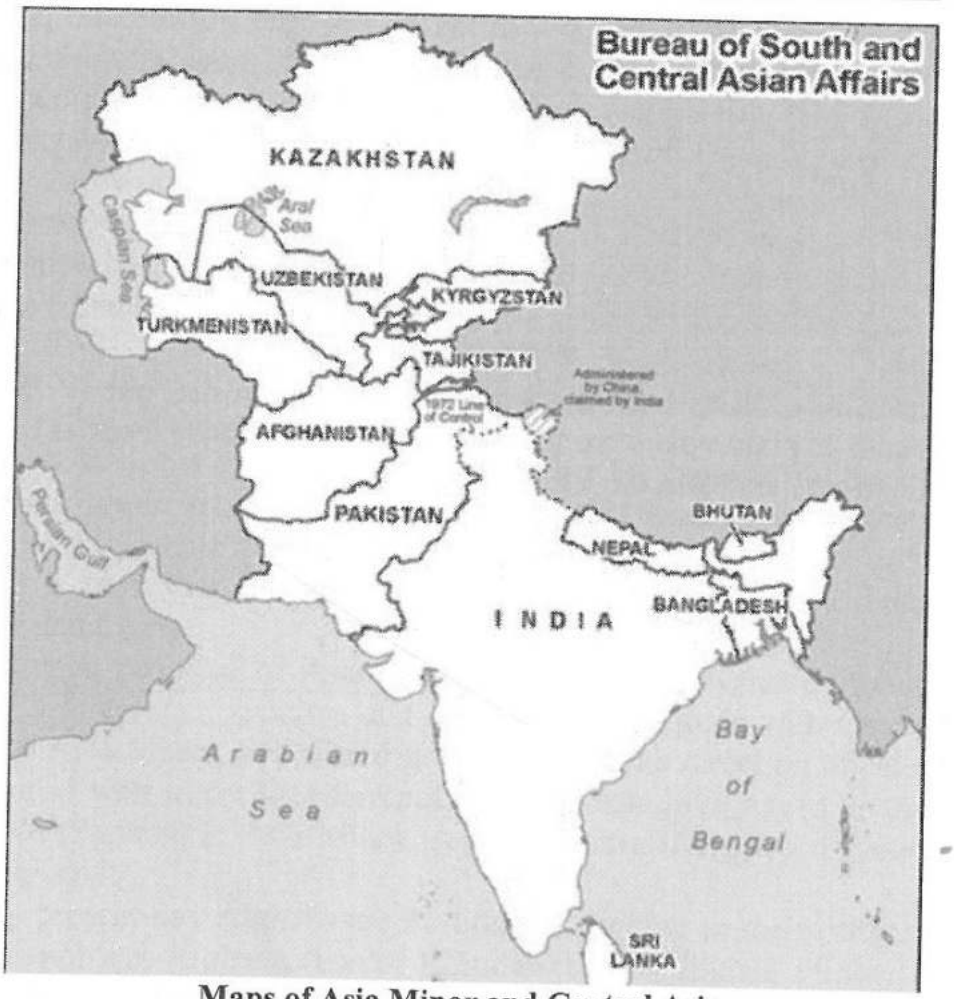
Jewish manuscripts from Afghanistan is now in Israel's National Library. The 11th-century C.E. collection, dubbed the "Afghan Genizah" (a Genizah is a storeroom for old Hebrew manuscripts) includes Biblical commentaries, personal letters and financial records written in Judeo-Arabic, Hebrew, Aramaic and Judeo-Persian. The National Library purchased 29 manuscripts out of a larger collection of documents discovered in northern Afghanistan then made available by various antiquities dealers. The documents' authenticity and dating have been confirmed by carbon 14 tests and the unique language of some of the Afghan Jews, who appear to have lived peacefully as a 'tolerated minority'. They are now under constant Taliban threat, and have done much to prevent further destruction of ancient sites and documents relating to the Jews and Lost Tribes of Afghanistan.

The Biblical Jeremiah was the father of Afghana. He is traditionally credited with authoring the Book of Jeremiah, 1 Kings, 2 Kings and the Book of Lamentations, with the assistance and under the editorship of Baruch ben Neriah, his scribe and disciple. Judaism considers the Book of Jeremiah part of its canon, and regards Jeremiah as the second of the major prophets. Islam also holds Jeremiah in high esteem, and he is also mentioned in the New Testament. This legacy gave great prominence to the welfare and protection of Jeremiah's son Afghana. He served both David and Solomon after his father and grandfather died in the same battle. This name is mentioned in the form of Abgan in the 3rd century CE by the Sassanians and as Avagana in the 6th century CE.

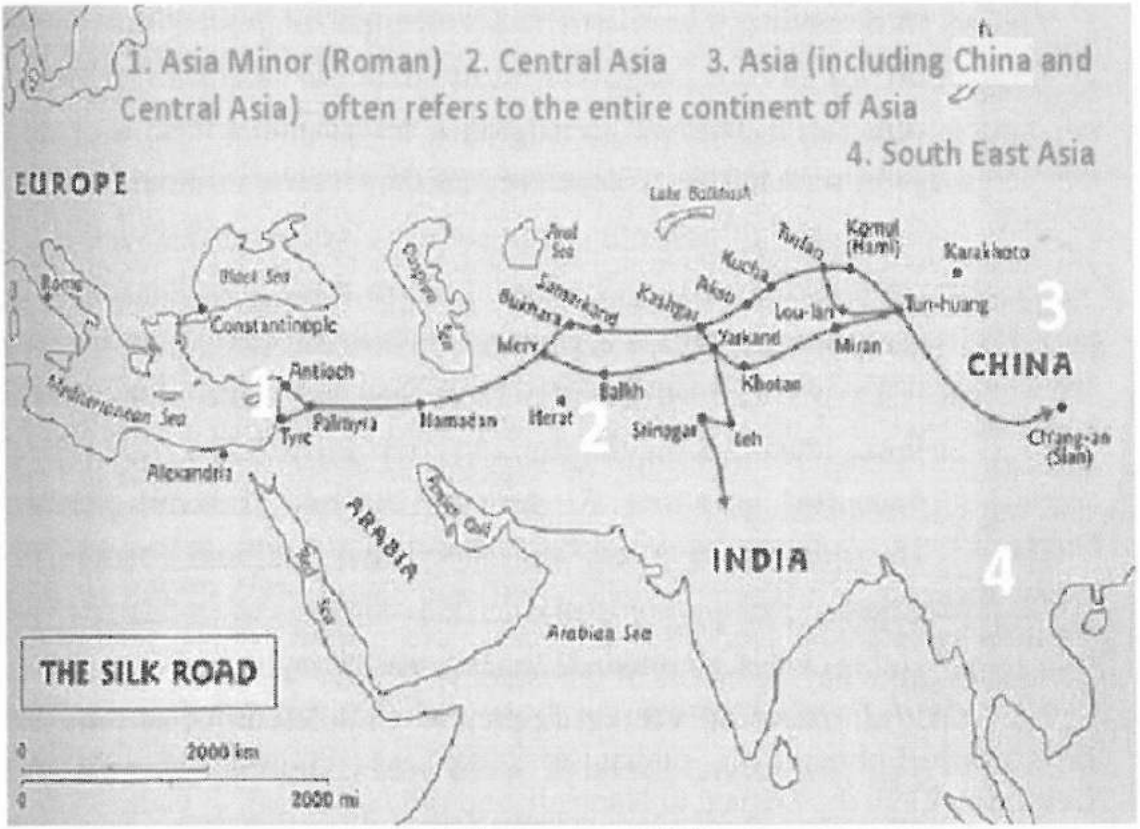
Afghana was orphaned at a young age, and brought up by King David. When Solomon became king, Afghana was made commander-in-chief of the army. Afghana is also credited with the building of the First Temple of Jerusalem.[264]

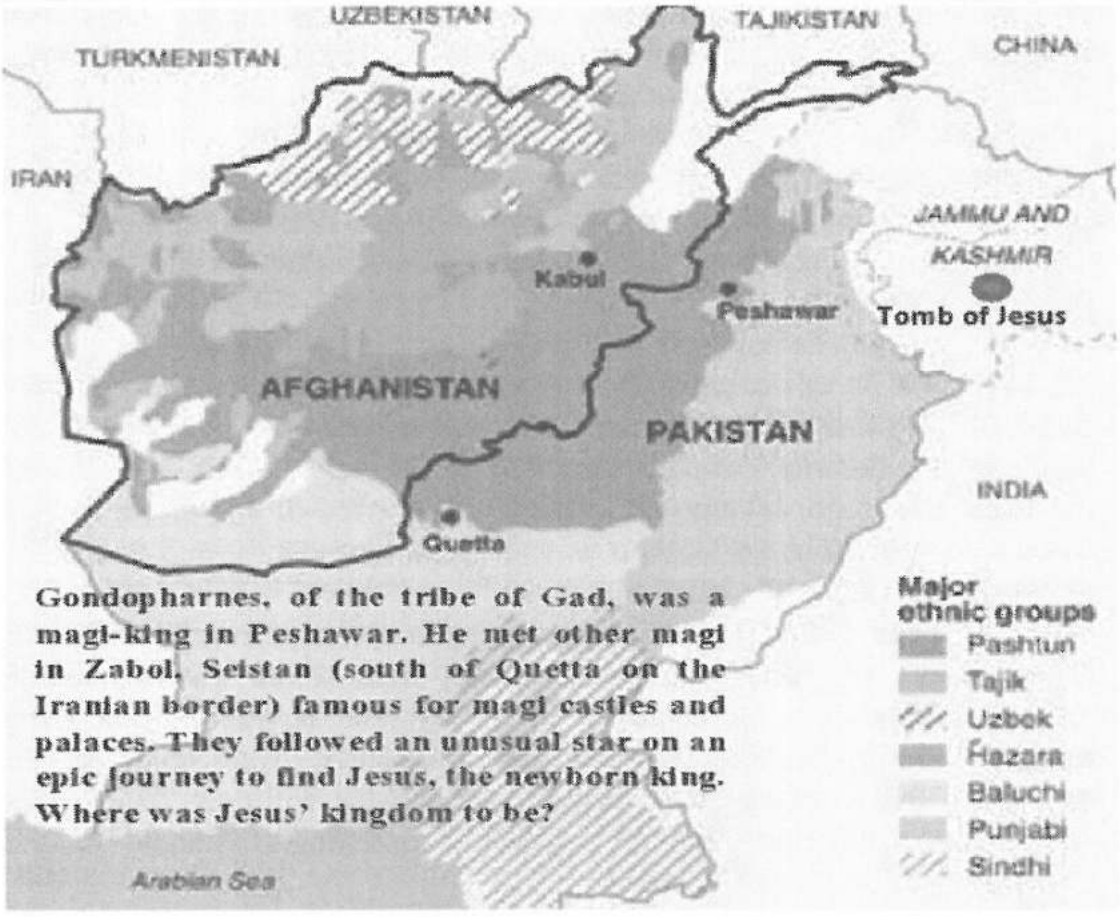
All this may seem to diverge from the life of Jesus, but in fact these backgrounds explain who were the magi, why they sought Jesus at birth, and what 'kingdoms' on earth the Bible may be referencing.





Maps of Asia Minor and Central Asia





Gondopharnes, of the tribe of Gad, was a magi-king in Peshawar. He met other magi in Zabol, Seistan (south of Quetta on the Iranian border) famous for magi castles and palaces. They followed an unusual star on an epic journey to find Jesus, the newborn king. Where was Jesus' kingdom to be?

According to Tadhkirat al-Muluk, Afghana migrated to the place known as Takht-i-Sulieman. There are at least six possible locations with this name; Iran, Pakistan, Baluchistan, West Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, and the hill in Kashmir above Dal Lake. All are located in Central Asia. The four major ethnic groups in present-day Afghanistan are the Hazara, Pashtun, Tajik, and Uzbek.

The circumstances related to Afghana connect him with Mephivoshet/ Mephibosheth. (*2 Sam. 4:4*) Pashtuns say that they are descendants of Pithon, who was indeed Mephivoshet's grandson. (*1 Chronicles 8:35)*. The Afghan royal house traced their lineage to the Tribe of Benjamin. Qais Abdur Rashid, a descendant of Afghana, converted to Islam and all his descendants today are now Muslims. The Royal Family of Afghanistan strictly maintains the ethics and ways of the Pashtunwali.

The Afghan people believe they are 'Bani-Israel' but not 'Yehudi', obviously meaning 'Children of Israel, but not Jews'. Two branches of the Pashtun people, the Durrani and Galzay, are 'Ibrani' (Hebrews), and are divided in tribes having names of the Israelite Tribes.

The Yusufzai (Yusuf-Si, Yusufzad), are the 'Children of Yosef'; the Efridi or Afridi to Ephraim; the Rabbani to Reuben, the Shinwari to Shim'on, the Lewani to Levi, the Daftani to Naphtali, and the Jaji or Gaji to Gad.

Following this pattern, it should be possible to identify the Ashurai tribe with Asher. The most famous Ashurai was Zoroaster, who declared Ahura Mazda the supreme divinity of the Zoroastrian faith, the one uncreated creator of all, the first monotheist religion, home of the magi, who followed an 'unnatural' star to Bethlehem, who were the first to acknowledge the newborn king Jesus, and the first to embrace Christianity as a national religion.
Some of the earliest concepts of Christianity come from the Ashurai religion of Mesopotamia.

'Ashuras' may be applied to Jews, Gypsies and other peoples coming from Mesopotamia. In this context, Noah was Mesopotamian-Sumerian before the flood and Aryan-Ashura after the flood. Asher became Ashurai in the same way as Yosef became Yusufzai, by changing "e" into "u". Yuz Asaf, buried in the Roza Bal tomb, is none other than 'of the tribe of Joseph', and indeed Jesus was. The House of Joseph was the most dominant group in the Kingdom of Israel, and in the kingdoms of the 'Lost Tribes'.

The invasion of Persia by Islam was completed five years after the death of Muhammad. All Persian territories came under Arab control, although resistance continued for centuries in the Afghan territories, and fiercely resisted in India and Kashmir. The local populations were rendered nearly extinct by the invaders. None converted easily or willingly.[265] Previously, Afghanistan had a multi-religious population consisting of Hindus, Buddhists, Zoroastrians, Jews, and Christians.

In referring to the place of exile of the tribe of Ruben and Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh, the book of *I Chronicles 5:26* states that: "Pul … and Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria carried them away… and brought them to Halah and Habor (Khyber; Pesh Habor is Peshawar, the city beyond the Khyber Pass) and Hara (Herat) and to the river Gozan" (all located in present day Afghanistan). The texts of *II Kings 17:6* also mention Gozan as a river: Zabul is a province in modern Afghanistan named after Zebulun, one of the sons of the Patriarch Jacob.

Herat is called "The pearl of Khurasan", a city in Afghanistan named after "Hara", one of the places where the Nation of Israel was deported along the rivers of Habor (Peshawar River) and the Gozan (Amu River). Kohat is a town in northwestern Pakistan that means the pace of "assembly" in Hebrew. In ancient times, it was the gathering place of magi and also for Hebrew priests. It is also the name of the grandson of Jacob, second son of Levi and father of Amram. He is mentioned frequently in the Bible.

Peshawar is the capital of the NWFP province of Pakistan, a place this author visited frequently. It is a huge sprawling vibrant multi-cultural city. The name "Pesh" means "Pass" and the word "Hawar" means "City", therefore "The City after the [Khyber] Pass".

HEBREW PROPHETS ARE INDIA GODS

The tribes in and around Kashmir consisted of several races and religions including Hebrews, and no doubt reflected many marriages and alliances between them. There were Yeuzi, Tocharians, Sassanids, Kushans, Yadus, Pandavas, Persians and Greeks. Some were important lineages descended from the 'Solar Dynasty' located in Ayodiya, in Magadha. This lineage is shared with Zoroaster, Buddha, Yudhisthira, Krishna, and the Pandava warriors, all from the Yadava/Yahud/Yadu clan. The word Yehuda means 'Jew' today, and is a derivative of the word Yahweh/Jehovah, the Abrahamic God. This clan was the oldest and biggest Kshatriya clan of India. It is the lineage of many great kings, beginning with Manu (Noah) and passing to Ikshavaku (Isaac) and on to Rama. Rama is worshiped by every Hindu. Many Hindus include his name in either their first or last name.

In Hindu mythology, the Lunar Dynasty (Somvansh, Chandravansh) is one of the three principal houses of the Kshatriya varna, or warrior–ruling caste. This legendary dynasty claimed to be descended from the moon (soma or chandra), while the other principal houses, the Solar Dynasty (Suryavanshi) claimed descent from the sun (surya)

The Shakya/Sakya janapada (kingdom) is mentioned as a Kshatriya (knight, ruler, leader) of the Gotama gotra (clan). Early Vedic literature listed clans by function, not caste. The Kashtriyas were the highest, followed by Brahmin priests.

This same organization of duties is found in Judaism. In the Old Testament, Levi was the tribe of the Priests, and Judah was the tribe of the Kings. Kashtriyas were expected to rule their kingdoms wisely, manage their resources well, and be superior warriors to protect their people at times of war. The Kashtriyas don't have as much power to wield today, but their Kashtriya lineage remains prominent in the Indian Army.[266]

The Hindu Puranas mention Shakya as a king of the Ikshvaku dynasty, son of Sanjaya, father of Shuddhodana, and grandfather of Buddha. The origin of the Sakyas is traced back to King Okkaka (Iksvaku). This is the Sacae or the Sachi (People of Isaac), and this lineage establishes Gautama Buddha as an Israelite. The same founders for tribes in Afghanistan also founded the royal lineages of India. What tribe did Jesus represent?

Gen 49:10- 'The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a Lawgiver from between his feet.' (see also *Psalm 60:7, 108:8*, the "ruler's staff"). Jesus was of the Tribe of Judah through his father and the tribe of Levi through his mother. In the Old Testament, Levi was the tribe of the Priests, and Judah was the tribe of the Kings, including King David and King Solomon.

FOLLOW THE ROD

To find the king of the Jews, we return to the Rod that was found in the sarcophagus in Roza Bal tomb. It was presented to Jesus at his birth and placed in his tomb at his death. We are reminded from the chapter about the crucifixion that the Samaritans believed the expected messiah would reveal his identity by possessing Moses' sacred relics. (*Deuteronomy18.14-18*). This messianic expectation was shared by members of the Sect of Qumran, who knew that these relics could be found in a secret chamber on top of Mount Gerizim (*Copper Scroll, 12.4*). A group of Samaritans rallied a throng of people, claiming they would take the relics of Moses and choose the next Messiah. These men were armed and this compelled Pilate to confront them with soldiers. Many were killed. Their leader was arrested and executed. This was in 36 or early 37 AD, two or three years after the crucifixion of Christ.

How did the Samaritans know where the relics were hidden? Did Christ have any relics when his followers called him the Messiah and King of the Jews? Did these relics legitimize his claim? Were these relics hidden on Mount Gerizim *after* the crucifixion of Jesus, or had Jesus himself hidden them?

Who took possession of these relics after this incident with Pilate? Who 'owned' Moses' relics and had the rights to them? *Book of the Bee*[267] is a historical/theological compilation containing numerous Bible legends assembled from many history books and apocryphal works. As noted previously, Chapter 30 is titled *The History of Moses' Rod.* This is an excerpt (this also appears in the previous chapter and is used here for emphasis)-

> 'They [Moses and the children of Israel] went into the Promised Land, and took the rod with them, on account of the wars with the Philistines and Amalekites. And Phineas hid the rod in the desert, in the dust at the gate of Jerusalem, where it remained until our Lord Christ was born. And He, by the will of His divinity, showed the rod to Joseph the husband of Mary, and it was in his hand when he fled to Egypt with our Lord and Mary, until he returned to Nazareth. From Joseph his son Jacob (Iakovos) took it, who was surnamed the brother of our Lord, and from Jacob, Judas Iscariot, who was a thief, stole it.'

Jacob is identified as the son of Joseph *surnamed* a brother of Jesus, confirming again that this is not a blood brother relationship. Jacob is a stepbrother of Jesus.[268]

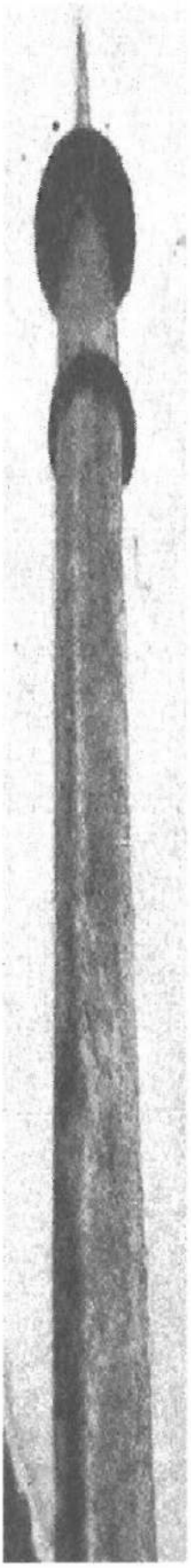
Luke's reporting of the visit of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus to the Temple of Jerusalem when Jesus was 12 makes no reference to brothers. Were they older? Younger? Why were they not also present? Moreover, John's Gospel reveals that as Jesus dies on the cross, he entrusted care of his mother to his beloved disciple John (although he is never named specifically) whereas if he had brothers Mosaic Law demanded that they care for her.

The rod of kingship passed from Aaron and Moses, then was brought to Joseph at the birth of Jesus. Jacob "took the rod." He did not 'inherit' the rod as the next messiah. This is made clear. Why did he take it? We may have a hint from a comment made at the wedding at Canna. John 7:5..."his brothers did not believe in him," suggesting, perhaps, they did not believe Jesus had a birthright to the Rod, or that he was not yet ready to take on his rights and kingship, or that he preferred priesthood to kingship.

Hindu lineages are traced through the Solar Dynasty, the Lunar Dynasty, and Agni, god of light and fire (not the same as the sun god). Each of these lineages has a Biblical and a Greek counterpart. The most prevailing religion was Zoroastrianism, followed by Brahmin (early Vedic Hinduism), and various Sumerian-Babylonian and Greek deities. The arrival of Buddhism spread rapidly because it was not a 'religion' that acknowledged a deity, but a philosophy, a guidebook for mankind regardless of caste or religion.

From Cyrus H. Gordon, *Before the Bible: the Common Background of Greek and Hebrew Civilizations*, (Collins, London 1962)-

> 'The Sumerians were master metalworkers. Without metals, they could not make tools, weapons, or intricate jewelry. They excelled at such crafts, and yet there was no metal anywhere to be mined in ancient Sumer or Babylonia. To obtain metals meant long distance trade, and this required permanent stations for repeated business, permanent laws and trade agreements, a common language of speaking and writing, and basic understanding of cultures, religions, philosophies and local resources. Everywhere that soldiers and colonists went, priests accompanied them.'

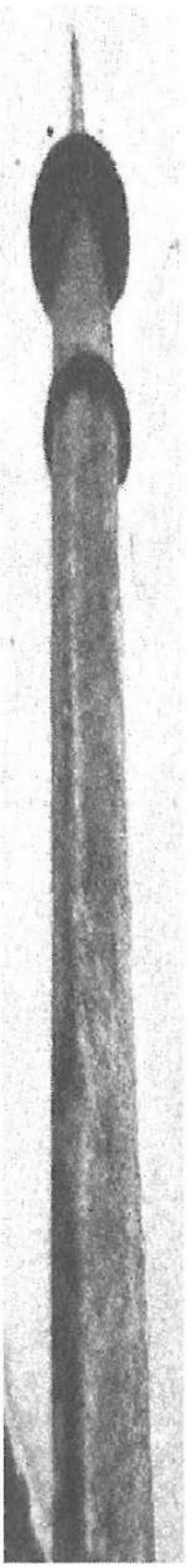


The Rod as it appears today, the filial was removed; the Rod is wrapped in a green cloth. Are there identifying marks on the Rod concealed by the cloth?

Iqmal-al-din, Calcutta, Sheik Al-Said-us-Sadiq, p. 358 & **Christ in Kashmir**,p.96/ 90-112 AD- Tomb of Yuz Asaf built by Ba'bad in Kashmir; Rod is placed inside sarcophagus in this tomb, with a history of the passage of ownership of the Rod on written records kept updated by the rishis.

Book of the Bee, Chapter 30:
'Joseph, father of Jesus, has the Rod when he took his family to Egypt' . **Matthew 2:14**- ' He took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt.'

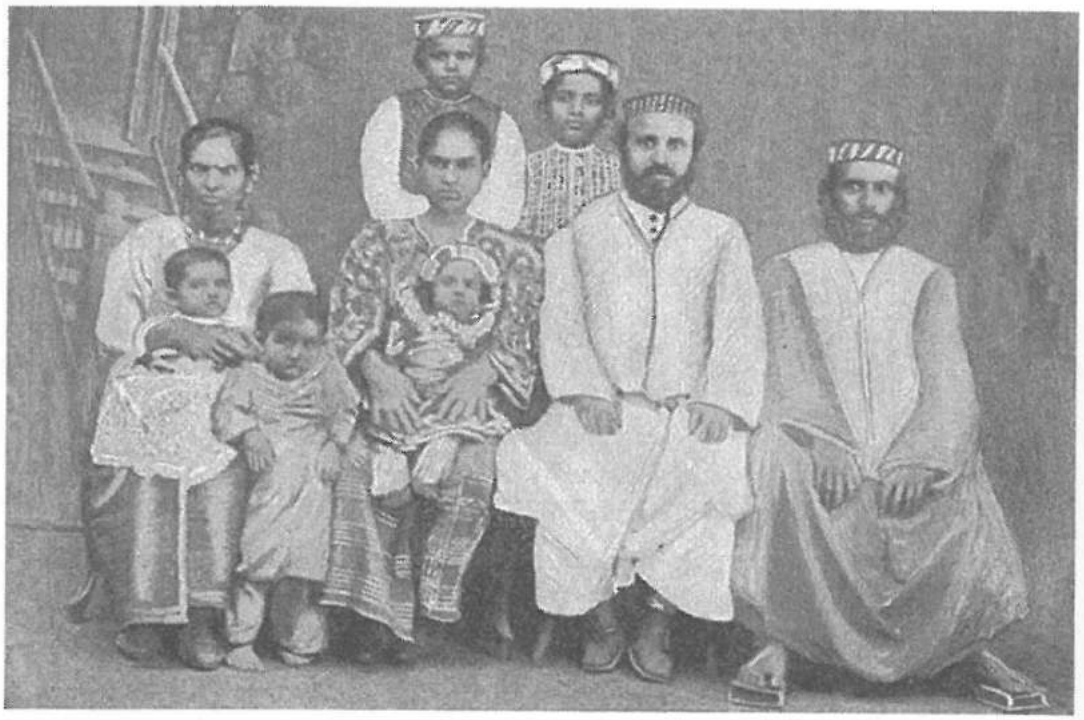
Christ in Kashmir, p. 108/ 1260-1360 AD- Sayed Rizvi, a local Kashmiri Muslim, was buried in Yuz Asaf's tomb. The Rod was stolen from the sarcophagus, and eventually settles in the mosque built at the entrance to Aish Muqam, a Hebrew burial cave.



Book of the Bee, Chapter 30:
'Moses, Aaron, and the children of Israel had the Rod. Phineas (Phineas was son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron) hid the Rod near the dusty gates of Jerusalem.'

Josephus (Ant, XVIII, iv, 1, 2) 36 AD- A religious fanatic arose in Samaria who promised the Samaritans that if they would assemble on Mt. Gerizim, he would show them the sacred objects which Moses had hidden there. A great multitude of people came to the "sacred mountain" of the Samaritans ready to ascend the mountain, but before they could Pilate's cavalry attacked them, and many of them were slaughtered. Pilate was called to Rome to explain the conflict. Tiberius died before Pilate arrived. Why would Pilate make any effort to protect Jewish relics, especially relics of Moses?

Book of the Bee, Chapter 30:
'Jacob, son of Joseph, took the Rod. Judas Iscariot stole it from him.' **Rajatarangini** (Chunder Dutt, *p.29-31*)
Jayendra, usurper to throne of Kashmir, steals possessions of his Minister, Sandimatti, has him arrested illegally at night and crucified. A sign appeared on forehead of Sandimatti, that he was rightful king and would return in ten years. Issana watched as angels restored Sandimatti to life. As foretold, Sandimatti ruled after Jayendra died.



Cochin. Jews circa 1920's

Civilization in the Indian sub-continent was old, and reflected a blend of Persian and Babylonian influences until the arrival of Alexander the Great in 326 BC. Although he did not remain, many of his generals and their Greek influence did. Many of Alexander's Greek generals produced lines of rajas and kings that ruled India for centuries after. There were 30 of these lineages in north India and Afghanistan. They were Hellenistic kings called Yavanas in India. Alexander was known as Sikander in India. Sandrocottos was Chandragupta, founder of the Mauryan Empire. His grandson was the famous Buddhist king, Ashoka. Menander and his grandson Strato are further examples. It was these Greeks who ruled when Jesus and Thomas came to India, Taxila, and Kashmir. We know them through their coins, written in several scripts including Greek, Prakrit, and Karoshti. Afghanistan, India (including what is now Pakistan) and Kashmir became Greek suburbs and this was reflected in India for centuries. The Greek language became the *lingua franca* used in this world, followed by Aramaic and Brahmi/Karoshti. While Latin remained the main written language of the Roman Empire, Greek was the language spoken by the well-educated elite, even among the Romans themselves. Most of the literature studied by Romans was written in Greek. Jesus would have grown up using Greek and Aramaic on a daily basis. The titulus crucis nailed to the cross was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

We may not recognize Jesus beyond old Jerusalem. People could change their religious views and their names and titles, but not their lineage. Jesus could become a follower of Zoroaster, Buddha, Brahma or a Roman sun god.

He could walk for miles or decide to ride fine horses. He could wear simple white robes or the warm woolen hats, jackets and pants of the Scythians, yet remain a descendent of King David and a claimant to the Jewish throne or the Jewish priesthood.

RIVER OF KINGS-A KASHMIR GENEALOGY

The history book of Kashmir, '*The Rajatarangini*' [269] was written by a scholar named Kalhana in the 12th century. It is based upon a Sanskrit word that translates to 'The River of Kings'. In Sanskrit, Taranga means a wave, and so 'The Wave of Kings' is more technically correct, but 'River' has always been used. It is a chronology of kings and rulers of Kashmir, very similar to Biblical and pharaonic chronologies. We are going to use this Kashmir king list to locate Jesus and members of his family hidden behind their Indian and Sanskrit descriptions.

Kashmir was a Hebrew enclave, and its borders were carefully guarded to prevent entry or prolonged stays by foreigners. Professor Fida Hassnain says-

> 'Aural Stein read about Kashmir and its people, in the works of Hieun Tsiang, Marco Polo, Bernier and Vigne. He knew that it was Alberuni, the great Muslim scholar of Sanskrit who had openly stated in his Kitab-ul-Hind that Kashmiris were very particular about preserving their identity, and they would not allow anyone to settle in their country, or rule there except for Jews. He had also read Bernier and Vigne speaking about the Jewish origin of the Kashmiris. He was of Jewish parents, and Hebrew blood ran through his veins, Stein was eager to meet his kith and kin in Kashmir. He moved to Kashmir to translate Kalhana's Rajatarangini into English under the patronage of the Maharaja and the Viceroy of India.'

The dates that Kalhana provided, his chronology, is totally inaccurate, especially the earlier king lists that he provided. He was working from ancient manuscripts and records that were often not dated, or used an obsolete calendar. Yet they still provide an invaluable source of information about early Kashmir and its neighbors in the north western parts of the Indian subcontinent, and are widely referenced by later historians and ethnographers.

There are several kings who ruled during Jesus' era, and Kalhana recorded events from each of their lives as best he could discern from notes and scraps of public records. During Jesus' lifetime, there were three rulers in Kashmir who are of special interest to us, who parallel Jesus' life. They are Sandimatti, Megavahana, and Pravarasena. We begin with Sandimatti, who served as a 'king in waiting' under the usurper Jayendra.

King Jayendra had his Minister Sandimatti crucified, but Sandimatti survived and returned to rule Kashmir during Jesus' lifetime (assuming that Jesus died past age 75). The next king, Megavahana, also ruled during Jesus' lifetime. He married a princess, a daughter of the magi. She gave Megavahana the sign

of Kingship that allowed him to rule. This woman was known as the Queen Mother or Mari Prabha. I believe this was Mother Mary. As a widow, she may have accompanied him not as a wife, but as the matriarch of the family. Megavahana entered Srinagar with 'many' wives. I believe these were probably relatives of the apostles under his care and protection.

The sign of kingship was so powerful that it allowed him to ascend with the gods and to walk on water. In India they know it as a metaphor represented by an umbrella. The umbrella's shadow over a king would protect him and imbue him with special powers, just like the Rod of Moses.

Megavahana (Rider of the Clouds) visited the king Gondopharnes, who was his uncle, and who had visited Jesus at his birth.

The next king of Kashmir was Pravarasena, also called Shrestarasena and Poros after the famous king who fought Alexander in the Punjab. I think this is a vital clue tying this family together. The magi came from this region, Pravarasena took the same name as a previous ruler, Poros, suggesting there was a family relationship, and several prominent Jewish tribes were already well established in this region.

In many ways King Pravarasena resembles Jesus the most. Pravarasena took the throne in his middle age. His physical appearance was remarkable. He had long shining white hair. Jesus was also described this way after crucifixion and his resurrection, his time spent with God changed his countenance. This also happened to Moses when he met God on the mountain and returned with the Ten Commandments.

Matthew 17:2 (English Standard Version)

> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

Exodus 34:29 (International Standard Version)

> When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, he had the two tablets in his hand, and he did not know that the skin of his face was ablaze with light because he had been speaking with God.
> (The Vulgate wrongly translates haran "to shine" -as if it were derived from keren, "a horn" - hence the painters of mediaeval times erroneously represent Moses as horned.)

The Rajatarangini story of Pravarasena includes several Old Testament legends all combined in one man, such as parting of the waters and offering his life for others; twice. He had an elaborately decorated ceremonial sword that he loved. An ancient wooden ceremonial sword, stripped of all decoration down to bare wood, is in the Roza Bal tomb. Coincidences? This is one of the most crucial pieces of evidence that links Pravarasena with Jesus/Yuz Asaf.

These three kings of Kashmir, Sandimatti, Megavahana, and Pravarasena all share elements of Jesus' life. Future scholars will have better information when archaeologists are allowed to examine Roza Bal tomb and the rod at Aish Muqam.

The numerous rajas and kings of India represented just seven or eight prominent families, and these families bear strong similarities to the twelve tribes of Israel. There is no doubt that Hebrews, in addition to the Greeks, were the founders of many India dynasties, and the parallels in the names are apparent. There must have been many intermarriages that further confuse these genealogy researches.

The dynasties were Lava {Hebrew Levi} (founders of the village of Kapilavastu, home of Buddha) Yudhisthira is comparable with the Hebrew King David, the warrior. Megavahana, Ashoka, Tungjina, and Abhimanyu (or Abdigases, abdi-abhi-Abihu-being a prefix title for priests descended from Aaron-and 'abba' for 'father', meaning 'elder'), Pravarasena- (Ra/Atum is Egyptian sun god; Rasena is also the name by which the ancient Etruscans (Rasna-Tuscis) called themselves before being absorbed into the Roman Empire-Etruscans were known for building towers and for building on hilltops. They may have been ancient Greeks and 'Sea People' who raided Egypt).

GONDOPHARNES

Gondopharnes (from the tribe of Gad) was a title held by many kings. We are interested in Gondopharnes the 1st (who was actually the 4th) king of Taxila, who traveled with the magi at the birth of Jesus, and was visited by Jesus and Thomas at Taxila 45 years later. The reign of this Gondopharnes is firmly established during 20 AD by the rock inscription he set up at Tahkt-i Bahi.

The use of terms like 'King of Kings' and 'The Great Savior' appeared on coins even before the birth of Christ. The legend Soter Megas (the Great Savior) *does* appear on Kashmir coins from Jesus' era. These coins have also been identified with grandson of Chandrigupta, and with Vima Takto (or Taktu-80 - 95 AD) a Kushan king and grandfather of Kanishka. Vima Takto was long known as "The nameless king" since his coins only showed the legend 'The King of Kings, Great Savior'. Then came the discovery of the Rabatak inscription, a family genealogy written by Kanishka himself, and this helped connect his name with the title on the coins. I suspect that Kanishka was related to Jesus (as Pravarasena), perhaps as cousins or through marriages as they shared a common border in very close proximity, and the kings were known friends. I also feel quite certain that some of the coins for Soter Megas, the Great Savior, *must* have represented Jesus. The coins from this era include the Guptas, the Kushans, the Kashtraps, the Kunindas, the Nagas, Nahapanas, Eran, and the Indo-Greeks, Indo-Parthians, and Indo-Sassanids. Jesus lived at the height of the Indo-Greek rulers in India. Any magi, and suggestions of Jesus' kinghood in India must have been connected directly to these Greek Hellenistic rulers, especially to Chandragupta, whose rule extended to Kashmir at one time.

THE PARTHIAN ISRAELITE

There are historical clues that Gondopharnes was an important and close relative to Jesus' family, and among the magi who visited Jesus at his birth. Gondopharnes hosted a wedding for his nephew Megavahana circa 45 C.E. The Acts of Thomas mention that Jesus (the 'twin') and Thomas attended this wedding. A. D. H. Bivar, writing in *The Cambridge History of Iran*, said that the reign dates of one Gondopharnes recorded in the Takht-i Bahi inscription (20–46 or later AD) are consistent with the dates given in the Apocryphal Acts of Thomas for the Apostle's voyage to India following the crucifixion in c. 30 CE.

B. N. Puri, of the Department of Ancient Indian History and Archaeology, University of Lucknow, India, also identified Gondopharnes and Thomas together. The dates given by Philostratus in his 'Life of Apollonius of Tyana' for Apollonius's visit to Taxila, 43–44 AD, are within the period of the reign of Gondopharnes who also went by the Parthian name, Phraortes.

Gondopharnes took over the Kabul valley and the Punjab and Sindh region area from the Indo-Scythian king Azes. The name Gondophares is a latinization of Greek, from Old Persian Vindafarna "May he find glory."

Gondopharnes is 'Gastaphar' in Armenian, "Gundaparnah"-the Iranian (Sistani) form of the name, and 'Gaspard-Sases, King of Persia'. He was the youngest magi to visit Jesus at his birth.[270] His gift to the Holy Family was incense.

In Pashto, the most widely spoken Eastern Iranian language, he is Gandapur, a surname denoting a certain tribal lineage amongst the Pashtuns of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The graves of Joseph and Mother Mary are both found among these people, and Afghanistan was founded by someone important in Jewish history, the builder of the First Temple.

Gondopharnes was a Seisten ruler from the house of Suren, the Indo-Parthian Kingdom, and was associated with the Apracarajas (Ashvakas – Kambojas, founders of the country Cambodia [271]).

Gaspar becomes Casper, the Persian form of the Greek word Jasper. It means 'red' as in a red gem or stone. It also refers to red-haired men, descendants of the eldest son of Isaac/Esau. The trait of red hair was carried for generations especially among the Edomites (of Isaac and Jacob), and appears among the Tocharians mummies found in the region. The word is also associated with 'keeper of the treasure' and this is significant to Jesus' story, especially if the Rod of Moses was counted among the 'treasures' to keep track of.

Farsis regarded Gondopharnes as a European. Yuz-Asaph, like Gushnasaph, brother of Gondopharnes, simply means 'the son of…or the family of…..Joseph'

The name Gad is regional derivative of Gilead, seventh son of Jacob. Aghad/Gad was also the name of King David's seer. The word means 'good

fortune' or 'lucky'. In the Bible Gilead is both a name and a place (mount of Gilead) in which Gad lived.

In Arthurian lore, this name becomes Galahad-Galeas-or Galath. It was in the thirteenth century `Queste del Saint Graal' /'Quest for the Sang real' that Galahad first appeared. The name `Galahad' is also a variation of `Galaad (Gilead)' contained in the Vulgate Bible. (*Gen. 31:48*)

It was also the name associated with the younger son- or grandson- of Joseph of Arimathea, especially in Arthurian lore that was added on in later centuries.[272] Why this particular name of Galahad? There must have been some lost history to connect this name with Joseph of Arimathea (as Mega-vahana?) or James, when he was a Bishop under the title Abdigases or Abimanyu.

This title was passed down through descendants of Aaron as Chief Priest, hence 'abba' or 'abi'= 'father'.

Phraortes (Pharez) was another name for Gondopharnes. The name is a link to the Davidic royal line of Pharez. According to the Book of Genesis, Pharez/Perez was the son of Tamar and Judah, and was the twin of Zerah. The book of Ruth lists Perez in the ancestral genealogy of King David, and the Book of Matthew mentions him in the genealogy of Jesus.

As Parthian kings and rulers, David's descendants were always arguing among themselves and driving one another away in perpetual and petty little wars, until their replacement with their more peaceful, cooperative cousins, the Kushan kings. In spite of these fierce sibling competitions, the Parthians always insisted that their rulers had to be blood members of the Arascid (Davidic) family.

Winston Churchill wrote in 'My *Early Life*', Chapter 11,

The Mahmund Valley-

> 'The Pathan tribes are always engaged in private or public war. Every man is a warrior, a politician and a theologian. Every large house is a real feudal fortress...Every family cultivates its vendetta; every clan, its feud.... Nothing is ever forgotten and very few debts are left unpaid.'

Matthew 10:6 states that Jesus sent his twelve apostles "to the lost sheep of the House of Israel." Jesus did not consider the tribes "lost" at all, except in the sense they were losing their old religions. The Parthians and Scythians and Yeuzi and Tocharians were blended together as 'Indo-Europeans' or 'Indo-Aryans' who also happen to be Israelites and the trails of the apostles lead directly to them. (*The Lost Ten Tribes of Israel...Found!* by Steven Collins).





Modern descendants of the Hebrew Lost Tribes. (left)**A Kashmir girl with distinctive tribal earrings.** (right)**Ahmad Shah Masoud was leader of the Northern Alliance. He was killed on orders from Osama bin Laden just two days before the 9-11 attacks in the U.S.A. Masoud was a Tajik associated with the Bukhari Jews of Central Asia. Tajiks dominate the Afghan Army and Police. Taliban began among the Pashtuns. The Magen David symbol is found in most Pashtun and many Tajik homes, worn by brides at their weddings, carved on doorways and schools, on tools, and worn as an ornament. Although the same symbol appears in Hindu and Buddhist cultures, Tajiks and Pashtuns insist it is foremost an ancient Jewish symbol used by their ancestors.**

ZOROASTRIANS AS ARYANS- THE NOBLE ONES



Some speculate that Zoroaster/Zarathustra was Ham, the son of Noah[273]. For approximately 1,000 years Zoroastrianism was a very prominent religion and the most powerful in the Middle East, perhaps in the world. Over this period, generally from 549 B.C.E. to 642 C.E., Zoroastrianism existed alongside Hebrews in Persia. Hebrews, and later Christians, communicated some of their traditional ideas to adherents of Zoroastrianism. These were incorporated to some degree into their faith. Both Christianity and Islam were founded after Zoroastrianism. Tenets of faith originally found in Zoroastrianism and Judaism were incorporated into Christianity and later into Islam on a very noticeable level.[274]

Herodotus mentions Median Magi as a Median tribe providing priests for both the Medes and the Persians. They had a "priestly caste" which passed their functions from father to son, the same as priests of Aaron in Judaism. Magi were the priest class ruling over the six Median tribes.

According to the 'Histories of Herodotus', "The Medes were called Aryans by all people."

The lines are blurred between Hebrews and Zoroastrians. Gondopharnes was a magi king who visited Jesus at his birth and appears to have been related to Jesus and to Megavahana through Aaron and Mother Mary.

Although Indo-Parthian coins closely follow Greek numismatics, they never display the Buddhist triratna (three jewels) symbol nor do they ever use depictions of the elephant or the bull, religious symbols used profusely by their predecessors.

Magi could not interpret dreams of King Nebuchadnezzar, but the Biblical Daniel, a Hebrew, could, and so the king made Daniel the Rab Mag ("Chief Magus"-2 Daniel.) The Hebrew Daniel became a magi priest. As a young boy in Babylon, the teachers of Daniel had been the Magavan, a special class of Zoroastrian priests, great healers who specialized in interpreting dreams, studying stars, and prophecy. The word Magavan is very similar to the title 'Megavahana', a Sanskrit word meaning "Rider of the Clouds". The two words – Maga (magi) and Magavan -- are mentioned eight times in the Gathas (Maga: Songs 2:11, 11:14, 16:11, 16:16, 17.7 (twice), and Magavan: 6:7, 16:15).

When Darius appointed Daniel, a Jew, over the previously hereditary Median priesthood, the resulting repercussions led to the plots involving the ordeal of the lion's den. Since the days of Daniel, the fortunes of both the Persian and the Jewish nation had been closely intertwined. Both nations had, in their turn, fallen under Seleucid domination in the wake of Alexander's conquests. Subsequently, both had regained their independence: the Jews under Maccabean leadership and the Persians became the dominating ruling group within the Parthian Empire.

It was at this time that the Magi, in their dual priestly and governmental office, composed the upper house of the Council of the Megistanes (from which we get the term "magistrates") whose duties included the choice and election of the kings of the realm.

In his classic book *'Encyclopedia of Universal History'* (p. 412, Volume 1, Jones Publishing, New York, 1899) John Clark Ridpath outlines the procedures. The 'House of Lords' in the British system follows the same procedures to this day. It was pre-determined that the monarchy would be hereditary, passed from father to eldest son under most circumstances. King David was not the eldest son of Solomon. Adonijah was the eldest, but Solomon felt he was not the best choice of rulers, and so Solomon chose David to be next king over the eldest son.

When Adonijah resisted and declared himself king, David ordered his servants to bring his father Solomon to the Gihon spring where the priests anointed David with Solomon's approval. Solomon said of Adonijah: 'If he shall show himself a worthy man, there shall not a hair of him fall to the earth; but if wickedness be found in him, he shall die.' (1 Kings: 52)

However, when Jesus was chosen at birth by the same magi, Joseph his father was *not* a Biblical king. Why then was Jesus chosen, and for where? For this we have to return to the Rajatarangini, and the usurper king Jayendra who was ruling Kashmir. His Chief Minister, Sandimatti (Joseph) was the rightful king, but his riches were stolen and he was ordered killed. Jayendra found out on his deathbed that Sandimatti did not die but would return to rule. If Sandimatti was Joseph, and Issana was actually his son Jesus, then the magi were acknowledging Sandimatti (Joseph) and Jesus over Jayendra. Jesus would, by birthright, be the rightful ruler of Kashmir. Kashmir was a larger kingdom strategically located on the Old Silk Road. It was a very important kingdom at this time in mankind's history. This is why there was so much conflict and jostling for kingship. The geography is so vast that it was common to have 30 kings or more ruling at any given time. A king in this region could be assured of wealth and quick influence in Rome. Choosing a bride from among the daughters of these ruling kings assured a place in the lineup for future kingship. Although kings were chosen by election or popular vote, many positions were inherited-passed from father to son. Jesus seems not to have fit either of these criteria-there must have been a father, or great grandfather connected with Jesus and kingship in India. We would recognize him by his Hebrew- Biblical name, but not by his Sanskrit-Hindu-or Buddhist name. King Pravarasena, whom I identify with Jesus, had an additional 4-5 titles and names. The clues could be in any one of them. The Bible only gives us the Hebrew names. India only gives us their Sanskrit names. Obviously their stories are much more entwined and complex- and change with geographical and cultural differences.

The Rajatarangini explains that Gondopharnes deliberately chose a wife for Megavahana from among women who were from specific ruling families to insure that his progeny would have rights to rule Kashmir. This may be the clue why Jesus was chosen at such a young age. We have absolutely no information about the parents of Mother Mary. Even their names Anna and Joachim (or Heli) are uncertain. Putting the miraculous birth stories aside, it is possible that Mary's lineage represented a line that had not produced a significant male heir in some time, or conversely, that *had* produced the finest leaders in the past. Could she have a bloodline connection with King Ashoka?

Poros ruled Taxila at the time Alexander the Great arrived and Alexander had the highest respect for Poros. Poros came from a distinguished lineage in the Mahabharata that included Shrestarasena (another title used by Pravarasena) Yadava-Surasena (he was the brother of Rama, of the Lunar race, and

grandfather of Krishna).[275] Poros's army carried flags representing Hercules. Poros's son ruled briefly after his death, then the fate of India passed to a Greek general, Chandragupta Maurya (340 BC – 298 BC) who was the founder of the Mauryan Empire and the first emperor to unify India into one state. His grandson was Ashoka. By the time of Christ, many of the north-western territories of the Mauryan Empire (modern-day Afghanistan and Northern Pakistan) had become the Indo-Greek Kingdom. The History of the Indo-Greek Kingdom covers a period from the 2nd century BCE to the beginning of the 1st century CE in northern and northwestern India.

> "The Greeks became masters of India and more tribes were subdued by them than by Alexander—by Menander in particular, for some were subdued by him personally and others by Demetrius, the son of Euthydemus the king of the Bactrians."
>
> —Apollodorus, quoted in Strabo 11.11.1

As we determined earlier, the Jewish tribe of Benjamin settled this region of the Punjab and Afghanistan centuries earlier. Why they were never mentioned? Perhaps we *are* reading about them when we read the Mahabharata and Ramayana, the two great India epics that comprise the whole of Indian political, social and religious history. The Mahabharata was written in Sanskrit and the Bible in Hebrew and Greek. Scholars differ about the age of Mahabharata. The Mahabharata was not composed in its present form until a long after the heroes of the poem lived and died. Some authors claim that the story might have taken place in the Vedic age, developed in the Brahmanic age and then composed. Other scholars conclude that the stories were developing and verses were composed orally throughout the first millennium B. C. the Mahabharata could not have received its present form earlier than the 4th century B. C. no later than the 4th century A. D. This neatly parallels with the composition of the Bible.

When a group of Persian--Parthian "king makers" entered Jerusalem in the latter days of the reign of Herod, his reaction was understandably fearful. Herod was a practicing Jew but did not have a Jewish bloodline back to King David. He was not appointed by the priests but rather through Rome. He wanted his position passed to his own sons, not to another bloodline. And indeed Rome divided his kingdom among his three sons after his death. This is why he ordered the death of infants that might become competitors with Herod's own sons.

Away from Mediterranean Jewish and Roman influence, royal lineages were taking a slightly different genetic route. A popular book from Persian ancient history is 'The Saga of the Aryans'[276], a semi-fictional historical novel on the origins of the Aryan (Sanskrit arya, 'noble' are today's Indo-Aryan people.) The author of 'Saga of the Aryans' is Poros, the same name as the king who resisted Alexander the Great, the same name that Jesus/Pravarasena later adopted. The Saga deals with the lives of the ancient Indo-Europeans

about twenty thousand years ago, who proudly called themselves the Aryans - the Noble Ones. The information is derived from about ten ancient sources including the Rig Vedas. [277]

Volume I of the Saga describes the Great Migration of the Aryan ancestors from their ancient homeland Aryanam Viejo in the North Pole, due to the Ice Age glaciations. Through the sacred Scriptures of the Aryan Zoroastrians, the great journey is authenticated; the book tells of the trials and tribulations that befell them during their great journey. They displayed heroism against the bitter cold and blizzards, the wild animals and the savage barbarians. Romance bloomed among the young, and they wept as they buried their dead. This is presumed to be the origins of the Aryans of the Great Persian Empire. It is also presumed to be the origins of the great Kushan Empire founded by Kudja Kadphises. His great grandson Kanishka was a friend, and possibly another relative of Pravarasena (Jesus). Together they were in charge of the Fourth Buddhist Council.

Indo-Greeks (Yavanas) dominated and assimilated with the Indo-Scythians (Sakya-Suren) and Indo-Parthian rulers. The Yuezhi (*yuè* "moon" and *shì* "clan") were considered both Indo-Greeks and Parthians. The Muarya Empire, the Pahlava and Satavahanas dynasties of this period ruled to the south and often overlapped with northern dynasties through marriages and expansions. The Kushans (Kanishka) were one of five branches of the Yuezhi confederation, a Tocharian- Indo-European nomadic people from the Tarim Basin who settled in ancient Bactria. Their elaborate burial tombs have mummies with red and blonde hair and blue or green eyes, similar in description to the tribes of Benjamin, the 'red' people.

Some of them have elaborately tattooed bodies, Celtic-Druid astronomical symbols and hats. Female priests also had symbols of the various Brotherhoods and priestly Orders. Family tamgas have been recovered from their grave goods and their coins. These tamgas have been an enormous help in identifying families and their migrations. They had diplomatic ties with Rome, Sassanid Persia, and China.

KANISHKA

As we continue to explore the local king lineages in search of Jesus, we find his friend Kanishka. Kanishka was a Kushan king and at least part Yeuzhi-Tocharian. His capital city was Peshawar, at the passage through the Khyber Pass. In 78 AD Kanishka sent invitations to over 500 monks from the most important monasteries in many countries to attend the Fourth Buddhist Council (remember there were actually two separate 'Fourth' Buddhist Councils, one in Sri Lanka and another In Kashmir). The Kashmir Conference lasted 2 to 5 years. However it took twelve years to complete the work of writing the Buddhist texts in their final form. Pravarasena organized this event

and hosted the monks at the home of Jesus' ancestor Aaron in Harwan (Shadara Hadwan which also meant 'woods of six saints'.)

The India Historical Society mounted a sign at Aaron's ancient homestead, declaring this the site of the Fourth Buddhist Council, and mentioning Kanishka, but here also is the grave of Aaron and this has not been mentioned. It was once identified by a rock slab over the grave that had inscriptions for identification. The Historical Society removed this 'tomb stone' many years ago to prevent damage and theft. It is purportedly now resting in a dusty back storage room in the Delhi Museum and has never been seen, photographed or documented. I only know of it because locals told me about it and expressed concern that it might get lost historically.

Joe Cribb [(4)] said Gold coins issued by the Kushans were of great complexity. The coins speak about the prosperity of people and show the figure of Kanishka standing and sacrificing at altars and deities.[278] During Kanishka and Huvishka's reigns the Kushan Empire was at its zenith. By the fourth generation it became totally assimilated into Indian culture and faded from glory. Kushans were excellent rulers, bringing progress in the fields of art, literature, architecture and sciences. Kushan Dynastic kings generally used titles such as Maharajati-raja (king of kings), Daivaputra (son of heaven), mega (great) soter (savior) and Kaisara-Raja (Caesar).

Various sculptures and friezes show them as horse-riding archers. [279] Animal breeding was already an ancient skill. Fine, well-bred, well-trained horses were a man's most prized status symbol.

Abhimanyu is a tragic hero in the Mahabharata. He is the son of Arjuna and Subhadra, who is the half-sister of Lord Krishna. Abimanyu was also a title for King Megavahana. Any word or title that has Ab as a prefix suggests a father or priest. Ab-Abi –Abbha-Abu is a Semitic root word that means 'father' as in Ab-ra-ham, 'father of the people'. Abihu was the title of Aaron's son and the son of Arjuna ('bright-silver' was one of ten names associated with him).

Abiathar[280] /Abdigases signify Bishop, priest, or esteemed elder. James, the elder brother of Jesus, and Megavahana both had this title. Ashvagosha was a Buddhist title. The word in *Genesis* means 'happy-blessing'. Asher is the founder of the Hebrew tribe by the same name.

Asher is represented as the younger brother of Gad; these two being the sons of Zilpah, the handmaid of Leah *(Gen.35. 26)*. The tribe of Asher was the one most blessed with male children (Sifre, l.c.) and its women were so beautiful that priests and princes sought them in marriage. They were of keen intellect. (Jewish Encyclopedia online, Asher).

The Genesis account gives Asher and Gad as brothers. The India account a few centuries later tells of Ashvagosha and Gad/Gondopharnes. The names were hereditary family lines for generations, suggesting that Gad (Gondo-

pharnes) Megavahana, Siddhartha Buddha, and Jesus were all related by blood. In the twelfth century Al-Baruni, [281] the Arab historian wrote-

> 'They (Hebrews) follow their patrilineal descent, and name all their children after their fathers and paternal grandfathers.'

The Samaritan *Halaka* and *Genesis 48:16-*

> 'The angel which has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads, and let my name be named on them and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac.'

From the Cohen Meshalma ben Av Sakuha Hadafni -

> 'In order for the names not to be forgotten and for the name of the ancestors be remembered, their descendants should be called by their names so their memory will not be lost -the names must be sustained as a main matter. And they assembled the entire congregation together on the first day of the second month and they declared their pedigrees after their families by their fathers' houses. '

Caspar Youngest magi, king of Tarsus	**Melchoir** The oldest, he had a long gray beard.	**Balthazar** Middle-aged, swarthy, bearded.
VARIATIONS		
Apellius- Jasper- Gad- Gagpha- Galgalat- Galgalath- Galath-Galeas Galaad- Galahad Gondopharnes- Gushnasaph- Larvandad- Phraortes-Pharez Sarachin- Vindafarna	Perozadh- Basanter- Sarrachim- Gushynasaph (same title used by Caspar-some believe they were brothers ruling Taxila and Kandahar simultaneously)- Damascus- Sarachin- Karsudan- Badadakharida	Amerius- Malgalath-Belshazzar (mentioned in the Book of Daniel)- Bithisarea- Yazdegard- Hormizdha- Horisdas- Hor- Hermaeus

KING DAVID IN INDIA

The biblical King David of Israel was known for his diverse skills as both a warrior and a writer of psalms. In his 40 years as ruler, between approximately 1010 and 970 B.C.E., he united the people of Israel, led them to victory in battle, conquered land and paved the way for his son, Solomon, to build the Holy Temple (Solomon ruled from 970 to 930 B.C.)

David was the eighth and youngest son of Jesse from the kingly tribe of Judah, and it was this lineage that was written in the Rishi Nama and placed in the Roza Bal tomb sarcophagus along with the Rod.

He was also a direct descendent of Ruth the Moabite. Initially, David was king over the Tribe of Judah and ruled from Hebron, but after seven years the other Israelite tribes chose him to be king over them all. David died after 40 years as king, 33 of those were lived in Jerusalem. He was buried in the City of David, today's Jerusalem. David was a poet and is believed to have written the Book of Psalms, or at least edited it. Throughout his life, David prepared for the construction of the Holy Temple by setting aside the necessary physical materials, commanding the Levites and others in their duties for the Temple, and giving the plan for the Temple to Solomon. Jews believe that the Messiah who will build the third temple will be from the Davidic dynasty. Jews pray daily for the coming of the "Messiah, son of David." Christians believe that Jesus fulfilled this prophecy. Jews are still waiting.

This is why the lineages had to be meticulously kept, which raises the question, if lineages were/are so important and if Jesus had children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, there should be records. The New Testament mentions a son of Jesus. It's not as though the Bible was trying to hide this fact. Indeed, records may have been kept in Sanskrit in India, but not in Hebrew in Judea.

Elymas was also known as Bar-Jesus. Elymas means "Wise" in Arabic. Bar-Yeshua is "son of Joshua" in Aramaic. He appears in the New Testament in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 13.

Acts of the Apostles calls him a magus (magi-or head counselor) which the King James Bible incorrectly translates as "sorcerer". This also reflects a lack of understanding about Patmos and about John, who was also regarded as a "visionary" or "sorcerer". Patmos was merely a gathering place.

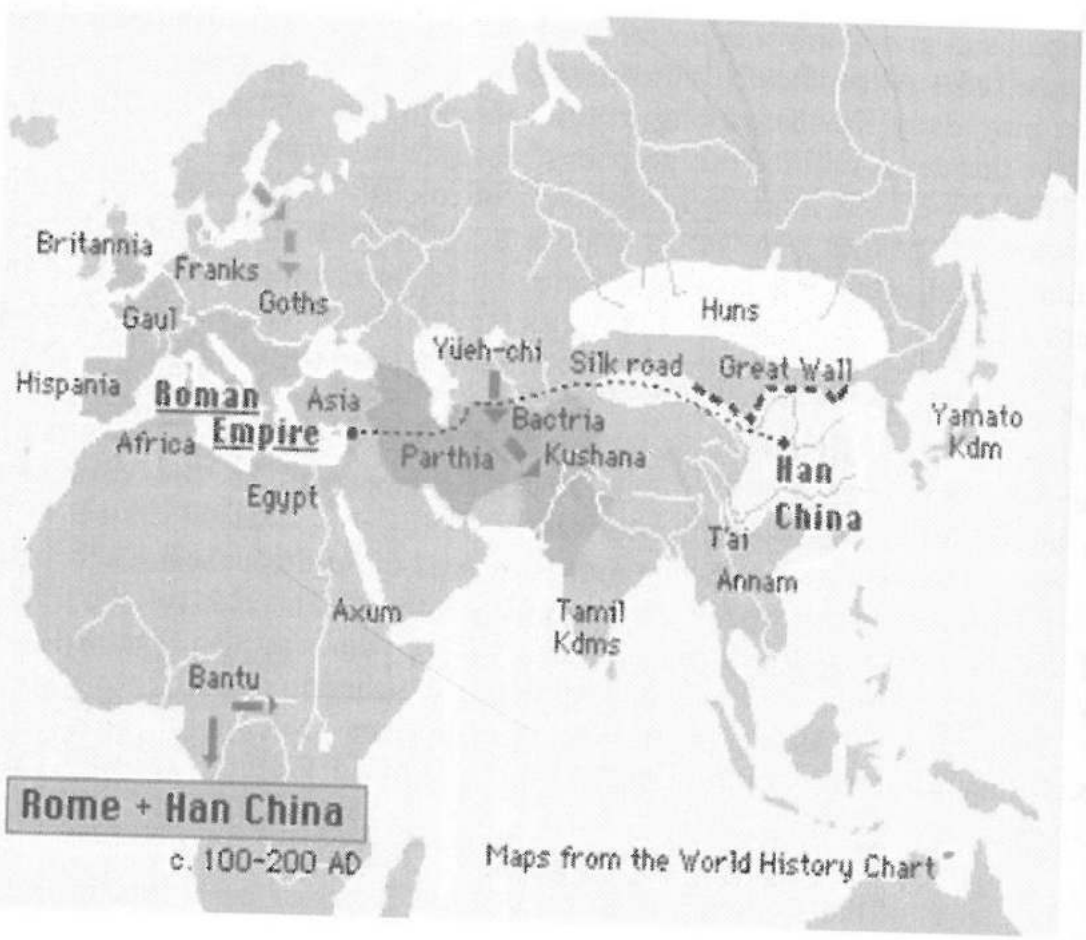
The name Eli as a son of Jesus also appears in Kashmir as Eli-kim (replacing Eli-mas), which is based on the Biblical Elikim, 'keeper of the treasures'.

FINDING THE LOST TRIBES

The names of the Kashmiri tribes parallel the Tribes of Israel: one is called the Tribe of Israel, another is Abri (meaning 'Hebrew') and the tribe of Kahana (like the Hebrew word Kohen for priest), as well as the Tribes of

Musa (Moshe-Moses), Shaul, and Shulaymanish (Shlomoh-Solomon). Other names correspond to single Israelite Tribes, like Gadha as Gad, Asheriya as Asher, Dand as Dan, Sakya as Issachar, and Lavi as Levi.

Kitro, in his book *General History of the Mughal Empire*, said that the Kashmir people are descendants of the Israelites. The travelling Arab historian El Bironi (12th century C.E.) wrote, "In the past, permission to enter Kashmir was given only to Jews. All the inhabitants of this area who have been living here since ancient times can trace their ancestry, according to their race and customs, to the ancient Israelites. Their features, their general physical appearance, their clothing, their ways of conducting business, all show that they are ancient Israelites". The two outstanding historians of Kashmir, Mullah Nadiri, who wrote *The History of Kashmir,* and Mullah Ahmad, who wrote *Events of Kashmir*, have also determined the origins of the Kashmiri people are to be found in the Israelites.





King David's tomb located on Mount Zion is the traditional site of the tomb of King David, and one of the holiest places for Jews, Christians and Muslims. It is one of the few sites in the world that is shared by the 3 religions. Other kings were buried here too. This is also the traditional site of the Last Supper, where Jesus and his disciples dined just before his arrest and crucifixion.

ACCOUNTS OF JESUS IN INDIA

Jesus marriage is discussed in the **Negaris-Tan-i-Kashmir, one of two **Oxyrhynchus Gospels # 1224, written in Greek and** found in Egypt, are now in the British Library. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxyrhynchus_Gospels.

Jesus in the **'Rauzat-u-Safa' written in 1417AD, based upon older translations, mentions Jesus and his mother passing through Nasibain on their way to Kashmir.

Jesus in **'Ikmall-u-Din', translated from the Persian.

Jesus in the Kashmiri-Buddhist book of **'Balauhar and Budasaf' (Yuz Asaf) describes the death of Jesus in Kashmir (p.258-67)

Jesus in **'Tarikh-I-Kashmir' by Mullah Nadri (there is an additional Tarikh-I-Kashmir by an unknown author that also mentions Jesus) gives more details about the life and tomb of Jesus in Kashmir.

Jesus in the Tibetan manuscript, translated from the Chinese manuscript, **'History of Religions and Doctrines, The Glass Mirror" Jesus is clearly described there on pages 471-72

Jesus in the **'Wajees-ut-Tawarikh', compiled in 1857 by Abdul Nabi Khanyari.

Jesus in the **'Tarikh-I-Kabir Kashmir', page 34.

Jesus in the **'Bagh-I-Suleiman' (Garden of Solomon) written in 1780, a history of Kashmir in Persian verse, based upon more ancient documents.

Jesus in the **official decree of the Grand Mufti of Kashmir issued 1774.

Jesus on the **signpost once mounted outside Roza Bal tomb (age unknown, but several hundred years old). The original sign (now removed) identified Jesus as a teacher and holy prophet passing through Afghanistan (The Parthian Empire) before arriving in Kashmir.

THE KINGS OF KASHMIR

As noted in the chapter about the crucifixion, Jayendra was an usurper to the Throne of Kashmir. He had a Minister titled Sandimatti (from the word 'Sanhedrin'- 'sitting together'- 'assembly' –'council'- a judge or Minister). Sandimatti had a guru-friend-advisor (son-young prince in training?) named Issana. Sandimatti was legally entitled to rule Kashmir because he was descended from Yudhisthira. This obviously suggests a link between Yudhisthira and King David. On the one hand, we are told that only descendants of Yudhisthira had the right to rule. On the other hand, the same goes for descendants of King David. How could they possibly be two separate individuals when Kashmir was a guarded and protected Hebrew domain! Hindu, Greek, and Hebrew rulers would have mutually excluded each other through wars had they *not* been the same people-or related as cousins through marriages.

Through an illegal arrest at night, comparable with the arrest of Jesus at night, Sandimatti was imprisoned and crucified.

I believe that Sandimatti was not the one who was crucified, although he may have been murdered by some other means. He was Joseph, father of Jesus. Issana was clearly in the narrative. Issana is a Sanskrit name for Jesus. He was there during the so-called 'Lost years' from age 12 to age 30 that are not mentioned in the Bible. There is an isolated account of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus' visit to the city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover when Jesus was twelve years old (Luke 2:41-50). Following that episode, there is a blank space in the next eighteen years in Jesus' life. Other than the vague mention that Jesus "advanced in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and man" (*Luke 2:52*) the Bible says nothing more. Several authors claimed to have found proof of manuscripts in India and Tibet that support the belief that Christ was in India during this time in his life.[282] The revised story of Jesus in Kashmir appears like this-

- **1 AD;** The magi who visited Jesus at his birth were all from Parthian kingdoms. Several appear to be related to Jesus. At least two of these magi, Gad and Ravenna, saw Jesus at the nativity, and again when he was a grown man. They referred to him as a future king. This caused Herod to seek out Jesus to have him killed. The family fled to Egypt to avoid Herod and returned after Herod died.
- **14 AD;** Joseph, Mary, and Jesus left Judea together when Jesus was between 12 and 14 years old, the age to begin university and

higher education. Joseph served in some capacity in Kashmir. Meanwhile, Jesus 'advanced in wisdom and stature' as his education progressed.

- **20 AD;** Joseph, father of Jesus, was probably killed by Jayendra the usurper. Judas Iscariot was involved. Joseph's grave is in this region, and was subject of a documentary for Pakistan TV. (Although the film is remembered at PTV, it was made by an independent film maker and no one could relocate the source.)
- **30 AD**; After the death of his father Jesus returned to Judea to gather a backing for his legitimate claims to the throne of Kashmir. He encountered resistance from the High Priests and jealousy from Judas Iscariot, who had stolen the Rod and betrayed Jesus. **33 AD;** Joseph of Arimathea may have assumed guardianship of Mother Mary years before the crucifixion, possibly through the Levirate marriage laws (not to be confused with Levite) and so claiming the body of Jesus was indeed a family affair for him. Jesus was literally "like a son" to him.
- **40-45 AD;** Mother Mary, Jesus, and Thomas travelled with a large retinue of women to Kashmir, suggesting disciples and members of the Circle of Women and Order of the Magdalenes. Mari Parbhat (the senior queen) immediately arranged for the building of several monasteries and schools for them.[Chunder Dutt edition,p.36]
- **45AD**; Megavahana's marriage took place at the palace of Gondopharnes., a ceremony attended by Jesus and Thomas. The 'bride' was mentioned as Mari, a queen of "East Yotisha" (Taxila). Yotisha refers to the Vedic astronomy branch of Hinduism, suggesting that Mari was regarded as a priest, or a child of magi, or herself gifted with knowledge of astronomy. Was this Mother Mary? It's possible. There are two problems. Mother Mary would remain the Queen Mother, Mari Prabhat, matron of the family. The most likely candidate for Megavahana would be Joseph of Arimathea, although it could be Haban, or even one of Joseph's eldest sons. Megavahana acquired the parasol (Rod of Jesse?) at this time, thus bestowing on him the right to rule.
- **50 AD;** Mother Mary, the Queen Mother, passed away and is buried in nearby Murree on the Queen's Mountain, named after her. It is presumed that Mother Mary was 65 years old when she passed away. This coincides with the end of the reign of Megavahana. If Amritaprahbat was Mother Mary, then she may have lived just long enough to see her son finally become king of Kashmir after Megavahana. She enjoyed at least a few of her final years as a true Queen. Joseph of Arimathea could have departed

for anywhere, even Britain, despite his advanced age. Hippolytus (AD 170–236) states that Joseph of Arimathea ended up becoming a pastor in Britain. The Catholic Encyclopedia considers legends about Joseph in Britain as "unworthy of credence" and a fabulous legend".

- **50-60 AD;** Pravarasena begins rule as King of Kashmir. Jesus may be Soter Megas identified on coins of the era, often confused with either Menander's grandsons or Vima Takto (the nearby Kushan ruler and friend of Jesus) because of the use of the three-pronged tamga or trident on the coins. The coins have both Kharosthi and Greek inscriptions and are considered important and reliable methods of identifying kings and dynasties.
 - NOTE: Tridents are featured in family dynastic lines, and in mythical, historical and modern culture. The Greco-Roman sea god Poseidon /Neptune and the major Hindu god, Shiva the Destroyer are classically depicted bearing a trident. In Taoism, the trident represents the Taoist Trinity, the Three Pure Ones. The trident also appears on the Ukraine flag, associated with Ukraine royalty for over a thousand years. In Christianity, a descending falcon (with head downwards, looks like Ukraine´s trident) also symbolizes the Holy Spirit. This is the most likely explanation, as the symbol appears during the years surrounding the Christianization of the Ukraine by St. Andrew, circa 55 AD.
 - The use of the title Soter Megas goes back to ancient Greece, and to Cleopatra's family, Ptolemy I Soter, a Macedonian general who rose to prominence under Alexander the Great and became ruler of Egypt in 323 BC.
- Pravarasena had two sons that he expected to rule jointly after him. (Two male children are sometimes depicted with scenes of Jesus and Magdalene. They may have had different mothers if Jesus remarried and bore additional children. This may account for the rivalry between the two brothers over the throne.)
- Their alternate names are not known. They are known by their titles Toraman and Hiranya. Either may have been the son named Ely in other sources. The two brothers did not agree how to rule. They especially disagreed about the coins that should be minted during their reign. The elder brother intimidated the younger, who was banished, exiled or fled in fear of his brother's wrath. While in exile, a son was born to him, the grandson of Jesus/Pravarasena. This grandson is named Pravarasena 2nd, and is the progenitor of the desposyni of Jesus in Europe. If the DNA

studies can continue within Roza Bal tomb, the links to modern living people can be proven or disproven.

- **100 AD;** When Jesus/Pravarasena died, the Rod of Moses was placed in his coffin. It has never been examined for a family tamga or other identifying marks. It may have been stored in the tomb because Pravarasena 2nd did not remain in Kashmir to rule directly, but returned to whatever foreign country he had been raised, and governed Kashmir through carefully chosen Chief Ministers, custom most kings followed to rule their distant domains.
- -A grandson of Jesus named Tanook still has a grave in Kashmir that has never been properly excavated or documented. (Aziz Kashmiri, *Christ in Kashmir,* p. 155-
A photograph of this grave appears in his book.)

It was Ananus the Younger who set up James the Just for blasphemy charges and had him stoned and bludgeoned to death in 62 AD. The enmity between these families spanned generations and could easily have extended to Kashmir. Josephus the historian said that Ananus was a man 'bold in temperament and very indolent'. Jesus' father died near Kashmir, where the jealous Jayendra has usurped the throne rightly belonging to Jesus through Sandimatti/Joseph. Jesus returned to Judea hoping to win the Sanhedrin's support. It did not come. Instead, these priests turned on Jesus and attempted to have him killed, perhaps because Jayendra was one of their sons. They were from prominent and wealthy families who wielded a lot of power and control. [283] Their reputations and influence reached where ever Jewish colonies lived, including India and the large Jewish populations of 'Lost Tribes. Jesus sent them on "missions." A mission may have lasted a lifetime, or a few weeks, months, or years.



Wherever the disciples went, their mission was to build peace by good example and by good works and deeds. The purpose, the task of Jesus' missionaries was not simply to teach others about Christianity but to live the faith, to show by example what it meant to be a Christian, and to help others without asking anything in return. This concept is at the very heart of both Buddhism and Christianity.

Buddhist and Christian missionaries are those who serve outside a local church.

They may work in a foreign country -- or in their own country where the needs are greatest. They build hospitals, orphanages, and schools, care for the sick, plant fields and give the food to the needy. Some took their family on the mission and all members of the family had a role to play in setting a good example. This has certainly been the hallmark of Christianity ever since Jesus taught the first twelve apostles. Luke was one of the seventy that Jesus appointed.

Luke 10:1-

> *'After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.'*

Where he was about to go?

Jesus traveled extensively and expected the same of his apostles and disciples. They were not regarded as poor illiterate wandering gurus. Quite the opposite. They were respected and welcomed in to the halls of kings. They were remembered with reverence and respect. Saint Patrick in Ireland, Saint Augustine of Canterbury, England, Saint Thomas of India… they were not military men or conquerors (the Crusades were a reaction to invasion and destruction of the Holy Lands, not an attempt to spread the faith by the sword.)

'BRITAIN' by Glenn Kimball-

'Great Britain played a significant role in the saga of the Bible and part of the lives of many of its most significant personalities.

By the 1st century, Jowett estimates that there were 60,000 students in the schools of Britain having taught notables like Pontius Pilate (Lucius from Spain) and his patron Lucius Sejanus, the praetorian prefect of Tiberius Caesar. Others included Britanicus, the son of Claudius Caesar and a significant group of the Roman elite.

Constantine himself was educated in Britain from the religious teachings in the British Schools. There were nine courses of study, including astronomy, mathematics, oratory, medicine and religion.

The very word "Brit" is not English, but rather Hebrew for "Covenant". The British considered themselves the people of the covenant because their connection with the "Ten Lost Tribes" from the Assyrian conquest of Judea in the 8th century BC. Jeremiah the prophet fled the conquest of the Babylonians in 600 BC and fled via Ethiopia to Britain. His tomb is in Ireland to this day.

He took with him the daughter of King Zedekiah of the house of David and the illustrious ancestor of Jesus. That is why Jesus' grandmother, St. Anna, was born in Brittany. That is why the survivors of the crucifixion eventually migrated to France and Glastonbury England after Jesus' death. They had family and Allies in Western Europe.'

By Edward's time in history the 1,920 acres of Glastonbury was given as a sacred gift to the family of Jesus and often operated like a sovereign nation, not paying taxes to the crown and riddled with mystery and religious significance.

A. K. Akishev, ART AND MYTHOLOGY OF SAKAS,
Science, Kazakh SSR, Alma-Ata, 1984
Tab. X. Kushan "royal tamgas", corresponding with rule of kings

Kadfiz I	
Kadfiz II	
Kanishka	
Huvishka	
Vasudeva I	
Vasudeva II	
Bakarna	

Tamgas-the same designs were used by families for generations on their pottery, textiles, coins, and weapons, enabling them to be tracked on their migrations for centuries.



The distinctive tamga over the Talpiot tomb entrance in south-east Jerusalem. Its meaning is still not known.

The Jesus bloodline hypothesis which held that Jesus and Mary Magdalene had a child was brought to the attention of the general public in the 20th century by Donovan Joyce in his 1973 book The Jesus Scroll.
In his 1977 book *Jesus died in Kashmir: Jesus, Moses and the ten lost tribes of Israel,* Andreas Faber-Kaiser explored the legend that Jesus met, married and had several children with a Kashmiri woman. The author also interviewed the late Bashrat Saleem (sometimes appears as Shaheen) who claimed to be a Kashmiri descendant of Jesus. (This is the same man who offered me help with his family DNA studies just before his untimely death).
Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln developed and popularized the hypothesis that a bloodline from Jesus and Mary Magdalene eventually became the Merovingian dynasty in their 1982 book 'The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail.'

HABAN AS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

Who was Haban the Merchant? Was he the same man as Joseph of Arimathea? Among the numerous titles associated with Megavahana, he was also known as Abdigases I, or Abanes, described as an Indo-Parthian prince, and nephew of Gondopharnes. He was the 80th prince to rule in this line.

It has been suggested that Megavahana as Abdi-Gases is the same as Abdu Gaesus, which translates as Servant of Jesus. [284] Joseph of Arimathea was described as 'Friend of Jesus' who donated his own tomb for the burial of Jesus after the crucifixion (John 19:38.) He is also described as a Joseph de Marmore and as a "prominent council member" *(Mark 15:43)*. The original Greek describes him as 'euschemon bouleutes.' He is mentioned in all four Gospels (Matthew: 27:57-60; Mark 15:43-46; Luke 23:50-55; John 19:38-42). He was a high counselor, a voting member of the Sanhedrin.



The name Abanes is strikingly similar in pronunciation to Haban, and to Abdi-Gases/Abanese. It would take a very simple transliteration to conclude these names were not of three different men. Haban the Merchant, Joseph of Arimathea, and Megavahana may all be the same man.

There is a famous tribe of Jews in Yemen known as the Habbanis. Their traditional occupations included silversmiths, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, and making household utensils. The men were particularly known for their long-distance trading. They were well known in the ancient world and highly respected. [285]

Megavahana was described as 'provost' for Gondopharnes. A provost is not merely a tin merchant or a captain with a ship. A provost, in modern terms, is a chief academic officer who oversees all aspects of schools and university related to teaching, learning, scholarship, and research, in effect, a 'bouleutes'.

According to *The Cambridge Shorter History of India* (p. 72) Megavahana was Abdigases I, or Abanes. He traveled far and wide, in part because he was arranging for colonies or 'safe houses' where persecuted Jews or Christians could flee to safety.

Megavahana got married at the court of Gondopharnes circa 42 to 45 CE. This wedding was attended by Jesus and Thomas, who, the Gnostics tell us, left the Holy Land 10-11 years after crucifixion. The timing is just right, the dates line up (*Acts of Thomas Part 2*).

In the Grail stories, Joseph founded a line of kings through his son Josephus-

> 'Some verses and a couple of genealogies showing King Arthur's descent [on his mother's side] from Joseph, which I here subjoin. 'Helaius'- nepos [grandson of Joseph, genuit [begot] Josue. Josue genuit Aminadab . . . [and so on to Arthur].
>
> The second genealogy derives the husband of Arthur's sister from a 'Petrus' who was 'consanguineous [blood-relative] to Joseph of Arimathea.' These independent lists prove [or at least help to substantiate] that Joseph did start dynasties in Britain. And here it may be noted that the original meaning of the Latin 'nepos' is not nephew but 'grandson' (see White and Riddle's Latin Dictionary, 1880, as well as The Classical Latin Dictionary, 1941, (pp. 28-29, footnote).
>
> Joseph's supposed grandson Helaius (Eli) is in the genealogy. He seems to be synonymous with the Helias le Grose (Heli the Great) of the medieval romances. Geoffrey of Monmouth, in his History of the Kings of Britain, gave the name Heli to the father of Cassivelaunos, the British king at the time of Julius Caesar (Book 3, chap. 20). Yet this person was too early to have been a grandson of Joseph of Arimathea. Old Welsh tales mention a Beli the Great—whom many consider synonymous with Geoffrey's Heli.'

The similarities are amazing. Jesus had a son named Eli/Ely (Elimas or Elikim). If Joseph took responsibility for Mother Mary after her first husband's death, then of course Jesus would be considered <u>his</u> son by law, and Jesus' children would be considered <u>his</u> grandchildren. This includes any

sons born of a Kashmiri wife in Kashmir. This may be how Joseph acquired a 'grandson' named Heli or Eli. It may actually have been this son of Jesus.

It is also mentioned in the Rajatarangini that Megavahana sailed along the coast of India until arriving in Ceylon. Both Haban and Megavahana were associated with ships and trade in India. Haban brought Thomas to India during one voyage. The Syrian Church of Malabar has documents relating to this journey. [286] He was on friendly terms with King Ravenna and visited Adam's Peak. [287] King Ravenna is also counted among the magi who visited Jesus at his birth. But there are more reasons for a long-term friendly relationship with Ceylon.

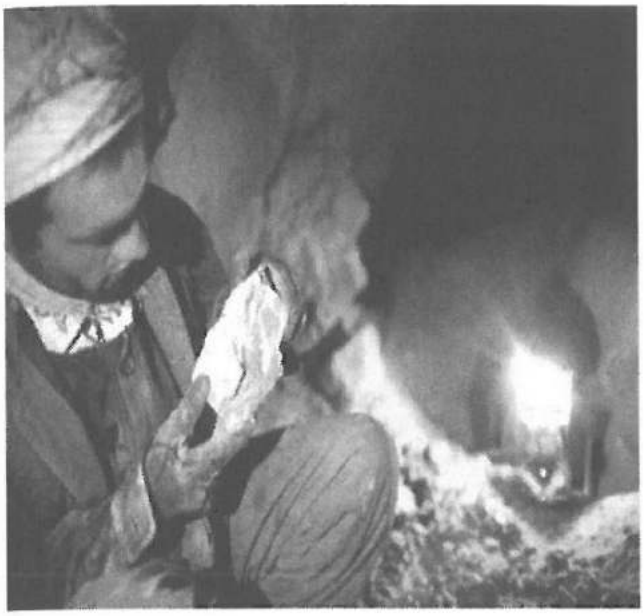
One unique feature of Ceylon is its minerals. The rubies and sapphires are among the finest in the world and have been mined there before Christ was born.

The 'Cinnamon' stone, called Essonite or Hessonite (a type of garnet) is a rare mineral from Ceylon of a brilliant hyacinth red color. The Buddhist monks were masters at understanding the potential in minerals and gems. They even developed medicines that incorporated minerals in the ingredients, and these medicines were sold worldwide. Villages were named after the metal that was being mined in that locale. The monks kept careful records of the procedures they followed.

The 'Vaijayanira-Tantraya' is the 2,000 year old "ola-leaf book" written on broad leaves, that describes their mining and metallurgical procedures. They knew different techniques were best used to extract different metals from mineral ore either for metallurgical or medical purposes.[288]

Anyone interested in mining and metallurgy would have been strongly motivated to visit the monks of Sri Lanka, or the local tribes in the hills of Afghanistan.

In 2009 a large gold treasure horde was discovered in a field in Staffordshire, UK by an amateur metal detector enthusiast. The artifacts were created by Anglo-Saxons in the 7th century, during the lifetime of Muhammad. The pieces were incredibly intricate and included insets of garnets from Sri Lanka/Ceylon. The gem sources were determined by gemological testing. Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India today are a paradise for illegal excavators and smugglers of precious gems, stones and other antique artifacts.



Gem mining, Panjshir Valley, Afghanistan. The author was given a gift of an incredible emerald, later taken by border guards. The Tora Boras and Hindu Kush mountains have much wealth in natural resources, especially gems, which is why the Afghan War was fought from the mountains where both Taliban and Northern Alliance set up their headquarters. It was to get as much of this wealth as possible to finance their fighters. In 1990 alone, over 100 million dollars per year in gems came from Afghanistan.





Queen Farah Pahlavi wearing crown jewels custom made for her by Paris artisans, for Shah of Iran 1967 coronation. Queen Elizabeth wearing jewels, some remade to include ancient and rare gems. The legendary Koh-i-Noor diamond, now among British Crown jewels, came from India. Several of the finest crown jewels around the world came from Ceylon, India and Afghanistan, which is why these areas were always a favorite target for traders, invaders and conquering armies. The ancient Greeks were the first to begin writing about how to classify gems, and the Bible mentions gems and jewels frequently. The oldest known mine on archaeological record is the "Lion Cave" in Swaziland. Radio-carbon dating shows to be about 43,000 years old. Paleolithic humans first mined here for hematite (Greek word for 'blood'- referring to the red color of the mineral.

The region's precious stones and artifacts have been pillaged at record levels. Thieves, both foreign and domestic, often steal the riches from under the noses of officials who take the bribes and benefit from looking the other way. The region is famous for rubies, lapis lazuli, emeralds and tourmaline. Haban and Thomas arranged purchase of lands for Hebrews making the exodus to India. According to Gardner, Joseph of Arimathea purchased lands in Glastonbury (circa 35 and 63 AD, Gardner p.98) for resettling fleeing Jews. He purchased enough land to support at least twelve families. [289] I would question the 63 AD date as being far too late for Joseph to have made the journey, he probably being about 70 to 80 years old then.

Haban and Joseph of Arimathea are both identified as successful merchants with ships; both were deeply involved in the affairs of Jesus and his family, and of resettling the families fleeing Judea.

Alexander the Great fought wars away from home for ten years, and founded at least twenty cities that bore his name. He believed there would be fewer conflicts among diverse people who united through marriages, not through politics and wars.[290] Kings befriended kings and travels for war or peace took up a lot of time. A king gone to war, or just to visit other realms might be gone for years. It might even take years to verify his death. Therefore, day-to-day management had to be done through ministers. Sometimes wives ruled for years in their husbands' absence, often very well.

AJANTA

Megavahana was the 80th king in the pure Kshatriya Gonanda Dynasty, thus Pravarasena, (also known as ShrestaRasena and Tungjina) was the 81st ruler in this dynasty. He did not officially inherit his office until 60 AD. By this date, Jesus would have been approximately 60 to 64 years old. Jesus after the crucifixion was described with shining white hair. Pravarasena had the same feature.

Someone else, also named Pravarasena, ruled the Maharashtra region, location of the Ajanta caves, circa 100-330 AD. This suggests a family relationship may have existed connecting the Pravarasena rulers. The cave system is vast; 30 caves are elaborately carved to resemble cathedrals. Richly painted on the walls are numerous depictions of visitors. Two are of special interest to us as seen in photos elsewhere in this book. One appears to be a young Jesus. The other appears to be a much older Jesus, who has now become 'portly' and silver-haired. The 'older' Jesus wears the same unique belt also seen on the man and a young prince (holding his hand) carved in stone at Taxila. This unique belt is what connects the depictions of Jesus across a geographical area spanning Central Asia and India.

At Ajanta, a painting of a skinny young lad with long, straight unkempt blonde hair, surrounded by other guests, stares with wide-eyed wonder at the

Buddhist monks and their exotic naked consorts. He stands out because he is so completely different in appearance from the Asians around him. Could this be the first born son of Jesus, now a young wide-eyed teen with unruly blonde hair?

FAMILY NAMES

The use of surnames or 'family' names started in Western countries at about the turn of the last millennium, 1,000 years ago. Place names were often used in the earliest years of family names (Hillsworth, Woods....) or the name of the chateau, fort, or palace associated with the family (Godfrey de (of) Bouillon...des Marets.) or the family trade (Baker, Smith, Carpenter, Taylor....).

There are many names associated with Jesus/Pravarasena. Each was chosen because it bore some relationship to someone or some event in his life. These are additional names that have been associated with Jesus/Pravarasena/Yuz Asaph:

-ShrestaRasena The Great Mountain Lord-From Shrest--"most excellent, best"(Sanskrit) and "sena,"-- light.

-Tungjina 2nd (from Sanskrit, "glowing, like shining silver" similar to one having 'a sterling personality'; could also be a reference to the long silver hair of Pravarasena when he took office as King of Kashmir. This was mentioned in the Rajatarangini as an outstanding feature of this king. There were several rulers named Tungjina (1st, 2nd, 3rd) associated with Taxila and Kashmir, including a famous Buddhist poet-historian-monk.

-Poros.-Porus-Parus-Paurava-Purshottam-Puru-Parvata-Parva-Parsha (Joshua). Porus (short form of the Sanskrit word Purushotthama-means 'the noblest of all men') is also a name of interest. The name was used by several historical personages and first appears in Greek mythology where Porus is the brother of Athena. This is another link back to the Etruscans and Greeks. The Rig Veda mentions a Vedic tribe called Puru, so King Porus may be a descendent of the Puru tribe.

Historically, this area has been a very important region in the events of Jesus' life. This is where Kujula Kadphises began the Kushan dynasty, where Gondopharnes ruled, Thomas visited, and the graves of Joseph and of Mother Mary are in this region.

King Shalivahana (c. 78-102 CE) met Issana, whom many correlate with Jesus, and cajoled him into marrying someone who could take care of him in his old age [291] (note: The originality of this text has recently come under scrutiny because someone added references to Queen Victoria, of a much later date. Scholars now debate what was original and what was altered later). The *Negaris-Tan-i-Kashmir*, an old Persian book translated into Urdu, also mentions this. The King chose a local Kashmiri matron for him. They wed and had children. She cared for him tenderly, and this family was present at his death, which is discussed in the next chapter. The Bashrat Shaheen family

claims they are descended from this union. At some time in the future, this may be established through the missing scrolls and DNA from Roza Bal tomb.

ELI-HELI BLOODLINES

The son of Jesus that we met previously was Bar-Jesus, known as Elymas, the 'magician', suggesting that this son of Jesus was associated with the magi. The *Book of Acts (13:6-11)* tells us this magus/magi acted as an advisor of Sergius Paulus, the Roman proconsul at Paphos on the island of Cyprus. Elymas resisted the conversion of Sergius to the form of Christianity being presented to them, but Sergius converted anyway. While the nearby Greek island of Patmos[292] had purportedly been a gathering place for 'false magicians,' this was an exaggeration. Other historians reported that these were simply routine gatherings of Pythagoreans and Zoroastrian priests. There was nothing sinister about this son or these meetings. In 'conspiracy-theory' vernacular, they were a Brotherhood.

The Orthodox Theological Seminary in Kerala, India, says this at their website-

> 'The Christian community seems to have gone underground with a strong vow of silence in the face of massacre and severe persecutions. Even today, there is an underground Christian Sanyasi[293] group who surfaces whenever there is a need to help the missions. Sadhu Sunder Singh reports that he had been taken care of by these secret sects on one of his Himalayan journeys.'

He bore the name Heli-Eli, in keeping with Jewish tradition. Where did the name appear previously in his family? Elia-Kim is the 37th male before Jesus in the genealogy of Jesus according to Luke: In other words, an ancestral great grandfather to Jesus.

In *Luke*, Heli is the father of Joseph (Jesus' grandfather) while in *Matthew 1:16,* Jacob is Joseph's father. The most probable explanation of this seeming contradiction is to consider the levirate law among the Jews, that we already discussed, which prescribes that when a man dies childless his widow "shall not marry to another; but his brother shall take her, and raise up seed for his brother" (*Deuteronomy 25:5*). The child of the second marriage is legally the child of the first (*Deuteronomy 25:6*). Heli died childless. His widow became the wife of his brother Jacob, and Joseph was the offspring of the marriage, by nature the son of Jacob, but legally the son of Heli.

It is likely that *Matthew* gives the natural, and *Luke* the legal descent. Lord A. Hervey, Bishop of Bath and Wells, who wrote a learned work on the "*Genealogies of Our Lord Jesus Christ*", thinks that Mary was the daughter of Jacob and Joseph was the son of Jacob's brother, Heli. Mary and Joseph may have been first cousins, and both of the House of David. Jacob, the elder, having died without male issue, transmitted his rights and privileges to the

male issue of his brother Heli. Joseph, who according to genealogical usage, was his descendant.[294]

According to Kalhana, the Queen of Pravarasena 1st was from the race of Ishava (descended from Shiva, a physical form of Brahma/God). This would be the bride of Jesus, Marjan, who died young (hers may be the grave in Kashgar China, described as the grave of Bibi Injeel). He left a memorial to her at the Temple of Solomon in Kashmir. This was long before the death of Magdalene, which is another significant clue that Jesus and Magdalene had never wed.



Alexander at the Battle of Hydaspes, 326 BC, when he fought against King Porus, whom he respected and admired after the battle. Soon after this, Alexander's favorite horse, Bucephalus, died. Alexander buried this horse with full honors in Phalla, a town now in Pakistan.

Of the two sons, and the one grandson that we will follow in Kashmir, either one could have been named Josephus in the west. The name Hiranya, one of these sons, has several meanings in Sanskrit. The *Cologne Digital Sanskrit Lexicon*, from Monier-Williams *Sanskrit-English Dictionary*, suggests several translations, including the following:
Hiranya can mean something 'golden', such as a golden flower or a radiant child. Hir-anya can also mean a potter's wheel. Hiri-Hiran could also be a form of Eryn-Ere in transliteration. According to Godfrey Higgin's book *'The Celtic Druids'* Hiranya may also be another description of the British Isles. He made thousands of links between Sanskrit and English words. A slight

variation is Haranya, a Sanskrit word for either 'abode of god' or 'green forest.' Haranya is a district surrounding Delhi, India, and Kashmir lies just north of here. This was the birthplace of Hinduism.

The name Toraman, the other son of Jesus in Kashmir, is derived from Sakya-Turkish-Buddhist origins. It bears close resemblance to 'Turamaya,' who was Ptolemy 2nd, or Philadelphos of Egypt (285-247 BC). By one definition, this means 'rebel' or 'insurgent.' Toraman may also derive from the word Torah, the first five books of Hebrew Law known as the Tanakh. As mentioned earlier, there is a grave in Kashmir for a grandson of Jesus named Tanakh/Tanuk (same as Tanush, meaning the word of Lord Shiva, the word of God, the Law.)

Laurence Gardner, *Bloodline of the Holy Grail* [295] concluded that Jesus had a grandson named Galians or Alain, son of Jesus Justice. We have not yet identified Jesus Justice, except to presume he was Toraman or Hiranya. He was also associated with a son or grandson of Joseph of Arimathea.

Ely Kim is known to us by the pillars at the Solomon Temple. They were inscribed circa 45 AD by Jesus and Thomas. This Temple appears to have served as another 'Genizah', another secret treasure vault.

In the Bible, Hellish was keeper of the treasure vaults. He passed this responsibility on to his son, Eli-Kim (Isaiah 22:22). This suggests that Jesus may have passed the secrets of Solomon Temple to his son, bestowing the hereditary title 'Eli Kim'. It may have been this son who placed the relics and documents in Roza Bal tomb.

Hiding treasures and ancient relics was a major problem. Treasures were hidden under Solomon's Temple in Israel when it appeared the Temple was being threatened by the forces of Nebuchadnezzar. These sacred relics were discovered by Rabbi Solomon Schechter (1847-1915) under the ancient synagogue in Genizah, under the old Cairo 'Ben Ezra' Synagogue. It is known as the Talmud Tosefta *Massakhet Keilim*. [296]

Menelik was 'Ebna La Hakim'[297]-a variant of the title Eli Kim. In Ethiopia, the title also means 'son of the wise', and/or the 'keeper of the treasures'. Is the Ark of the Covenant the 'secret treasure' held by Menelik, just as the Rod of Moses was the secret treasure held by Elikim?

DNA- REVELATIONS OR IRRELEVENT?

Although a DNA test may tell you that you have an Arab ancestor, can you prove beyond certainty that your family goes straight back to the Arab Prophet Muhammad? The same rules would apply for the bloodline of Buddha or Jesus. Few families other than royalty have records that survived for thousands of years. These records are extremely limiting in that they follow only a tiny range of the total ancestors that contributed to your gene pool.

Without written historical records for validation, a DNA test can only tell us so much. Both the DNA *and* the written family history should support one another. It is impossible to ever have your own full history because the numbers of ancestors it took to create you reach staggering proportions the further back one goes.

Suppose that you wanted a written record of your *every* ancestor…if you use the Pyramid Theory, a doubling of ancestors each generation back, you have 2048 ancestors by the 12th generation in your past, and possibly 60,000 direct ancestors going back to the Crusades. By Generation #40, you would have more than one trillion ancestors!

By the time of Jesus, over 60 generations back, the number of ancestors would be staggering, and theoretically, would exceed the number of people ever born on this planet.[298]

How then is it possible for people to claim they "remember" *being* Jesus or Magdalene based on memories they believe are imprinted on their DNA? How can you distinguish the life of Magdalene from millions of other lives and deaths in your past clamoring to be remembered?

Many believe the soul reincarnates. One may return in the body of a newborn who is totally unrelated, or return as an animal, or a spiritual being. This belief has nothing to do with DNA or genetics, and more to do with topics like 'karma'. You could be born in a small village in Rajasthan in this life, an Eskimo village in the next, and as an insect in South Africa in the next life! If reincarnation is true, then ancestral DNA becomes a useless concept in many respects. Theoretically, it's not really 'you' in that bloodline. And yet this doctrine of reincarnation is a central tenet of Indian religions and is a belief that was held by such historic figures as Pythagoras, Plato and Socrates. It is as vital a belief of faith to millions, as the crucifixion and death of Jesus on the cross is to others. Finding lineages of Jesus will surely contain DNA surprises.

LET THE BLOODLINE BEGIN

The tale of the two sons of Pravarasena (Jesus) Toraman (also known as Yuvaraja, or the Crown Prince) and Hiranya, as told in the Rajatarangini, is a troubled one. The father expected them to rule jointly but Hiranya was jealous of his brother and disagreed with him over the choice of coins to be used during their reign. The argument escalated. Through his Ministers, Hiranya arranged to have Toraman imprisoned[299] (this could be an exile far away). Toraman's wife became pregnant during this banishment. She went into hiding in a nearby potter's hut where their son was born. This child was named Pravarasena II after his grandfather.

She feared for his life, and hid the child in the potter's care while tending to the health of her ailing husband in prison. The wife of Toraman was



"Anjana Devi", the daughter of Rajendra[300] of the Ikshvak (Isaac-Solar) Dynasty. Buddha was descended from this lineage.
In Sanskrit, Anjana Devi means 'sugar cane' or someone very sweet...[301] As ethereal beings who inhabit the skies, they are often depicted taking flight, or in the service of a god. Anjana Devs or apsaras are comparable to angels and to daughters of the Elohim. Apsaras are beautiful, semi-supernatural female beings, youthful and elegant. The word also means "celestial maiden"... as caretakers of fallen heroes, they have been compared to the valkyries of Norse mythology. This was how Pravarasena II's mother was remembered because she tended faithfully to her ailing husband.

Hiranya[302] died childless sometime around 90 CE, about the same time as his father Pravarasena/Jesus, leaving the throne of Kashmir vacant. Toraman remained in prison (or exile?) and never returned to Kashmir. Kashmiris knew of the existence of the Crown Prince Toraman, but had no idea if he was still alive, or where his son had been hidden. Jesus died (or otherwise left this earth) apparently never knowing the fate of his son or his grandson.

There was no one left in the family to inherit the Rod, and so it was placed inside the tomb of Yuz Asaf. The records kept by Bashrat Shaheen about his genealogy back to Yuz Asaf disappeared after his death.

Without a new leader, the country fell into anarchy. The aging ministers requested Emperor Vikramaditiya of Ujjain (also known as Harsha) to send them a temporary king, and he sent them one of his famous state-poets, Magrigupta, who governed well. With him came a flood of Hindu scholars and Brahman priests, changing forever the religious balance of Kashmir.

> *Note- about Ujjain: Ujjain has a special place in the history of India. It was on the main trade route between Delhi and Mumbai, and was famous for its schools of higher learning. Lord Krishna, Balarama, and King Ashoka. were educated here, including a study of advanced astronomy. It was also famous for its poets and literary geniuses. The number zero was introduced to Arabia from Ujjain.*

Magrigupta was known to add gold dust to food and distribute this to his friends. This was done in the ancient belief that something so beautiful must be good for the body. However, since metallic gold is inert to all body chemistry, it has no taste, it provides no nutrition, and it supposedly leaves the body unaltered if taken in small amounts. The ancients believed this substance would facilitate extraordinary life-spans, and cure many diseases.

The author Laurence Gardner, who wrote *Bloodline of the Holy Grail,* was a prominent author and speaker in the alternative history genre of research

and writing, whose published works presented often controversial revisionist theories, challenging orthodox views of world history. His own research led him to believe in the properties of gold powder. He wrote extensively about it and consumed unknown quantities on a regular basis purportedly to treat his cancer. He died of complications in August, 2010 at the age of 67.

The son born to Toraman had remained hidden and cared for by a potter's family in a small, poor village. One day a relative of the grandfather, whose name was also Jayendra (no relation to the prior usurper king) was travelling through the area. He noticed the child playing outside, and how *this* child stood out from all the others. Instantly he saw the resemblance to Pravarasena, and realized this was the hidden heir and grandchild. The potter's family told him about the suffering and poverty of the child's parents, and how magi priests would bring them money for food and for the child's education.



The uncle quickly made contact with the priests. They brought him to the mother and father.

It was decided the child should be relocated to a different location (never described- could have been France or Britain?) where he would be safe and get an education befitting a young prince and future ruler. The child was carried away by his uncle to an unknown destination, where he lived for approximately twenty years.

When the young Prince was grown he learned about his background and bloodline. His first concern was for his parents, and he journeyed to meet them. His elderly father died soon after their reunion. His ailing mother, weakened and struggling in poverty, had nowhere to go. Her son brought her

back to Kashmir and made provisions for her to have a home and good care until the day she died.

Pravarasena 2nd then set his goal on improving Kashmir, a project that took the next sixty years. He worked with many excellent ministers and administrators. They introduced new 'cottage industries' to help the local economy. He had children but little is known of them, or of his wife.

He excelled in good governance and modern building projects. He traveled the world for ideas and became a king of worldwide renown. His son, Yudhisthira II, named after their illustrious grandfather of the Mahabharata epic, ruled twenty years, then his son, then the next and the next for nine generations. This line in India finally ended with the rule of Lalitaditiya in 700 CE. This marked the onset of hostilities and invasions by Arab traders, then the bloodline records were lost. If Pravarasena 2nd had other sons, among whom at least one moved to Europe, then we have found the missing desposyni connection.

Dynasties and bloodlines that had existed for millennia in India were wiped out when the Muslim invaders arrived. It was they, not 'sacred secret bloodline societies' or fearful escapees who destroyed the evidence. Priceless records of ancient lineages became worthless pieces of paper. Many were altered and forged to gain better status in the eyes of the conquerors, who themselves made up fantastic lineages to legitimize their illegal land grabs and ill-begot new wealth.

The Gonanda dynasty had begun with Gonanda 1 and Krishna at the time of the Mahabharata wars. The main Gonandiya dynasty was founded by Gonanda III. Megavahana was the 80th king in the Kshatriya Gonanda Dynasty, the 81st ruler was Pravarasena (aka Jesus, ShrestaRasena, and Tungjina) and the grandson Pravarasena was the 83rd ruler.

The Bible is a genealogy record that goes back 4,000 years to the 17th century BCE, and covers more than 3087 biblical characters with details such as who were parents, brothers, sisters, spouses, concubines and children. It follows the lineage of King David to determine who has the right to continue to rule, and who can legitimately claim to be the awaited Messiah for the Jews. From the Mahabharata onward, similar genealogies were established, and none could rule Kashmir except the lineage of Yudhisthira, through Arjuna's grandson Parikshita. Kashmir was ruled by Jewish leaders descended from King David. Yudhisthira must have been a Jew, and may have been King David himself. The very word means "steady in war", from yudh meaning war, and stirah meaning steady. We learn about Yudhisthira in the Mahabharata. The oldest preserved parts of the text are thought to be not much older than around 400 BCE, though the origins of the epic probably fall between the 8th and 9th centuries BCE. This places him precisely in the same era when David ruled for 40 years, between approximately 1010 and 970 B.C.E. David was the eighth and youngest son of Jesse from the kingly tribe

of Judah. The Rod of Jesse was placed inside Roza Bal tomb. By connecting the dots, we have revealed one of the greatest stories of all time.

GENETIC TRAILS

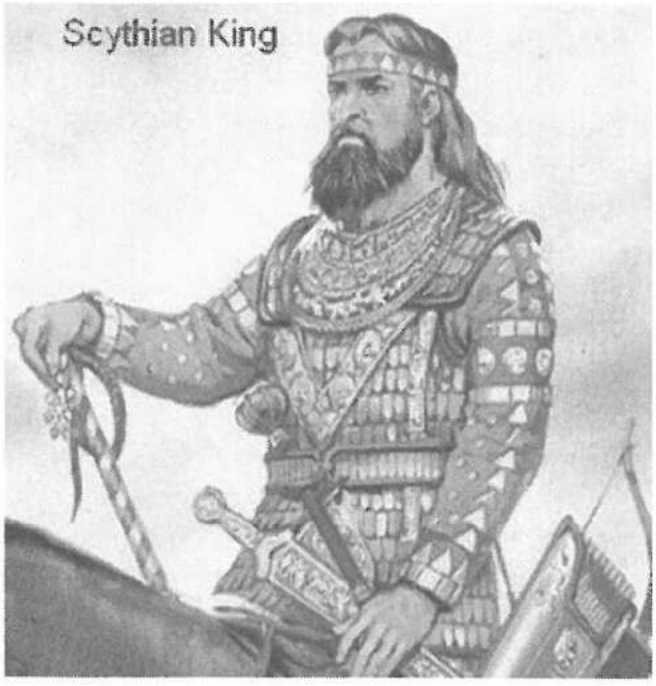
If we were to follow the DNA, in terms of genetics, the subclad R1a1a (R-M17 or R-M198) is most commonly associated with Indo-European languages.

Spencer Wells suggests in a (2001) study that the origin, distribution and age of the R1a1 haplotype points to an ancient migration, corresponding to the spread of the Kurgan people (kurgan is the name of their tumulus or grave mounds.)

They were a patrilineal society, a nomadic tribe of the Pontic-Caspian steppe (Eastern Ukraine and Southern Russia) who expanded in several waves during the 3rd millennium BC.

From the shores of the Azov Sea, Thor Heyerdahl believed he found evidence that many of these people came from Sweden and his native Norway; explained in his book, 'The Search for Odin.'

Their expansion coincided with the Andronovo culture of Eurasia, the arrival of the Tocharians, taming of the horse and improvements to chariots, the building of the Pyramids, the beginning of Babylonian, Biblical, and Mahabharata epics. They founded dynasties in Ethiopia., Egypt, Rome, Greece, Judea, Gaul, and Central Asia.



1st century King with a rod and sword like those placed in Roza Bal.

They were Hebrews and Brahmins, Buddhists and Zoroastrians. Many were Christians until 700 CE, and then became Muslims.

King David and Yudhisthira, Arjuna's grandson Parikshita, Krishna, Zoroaster (Indo-Iranian branch) Buddha, King Gondopharnes, the magi, Mother Mary and Jesus were all Indo-Aryan-Europeans.

Jesus would have been very proud of his grandson Pravarasena 2nd , who is remembered as a great writer and philosopher and 'king of kings', similar to his grandfather.

What has worked against finding the bloodline of Jesus includes the finality of the crucifixion for Christians. They had no need to look further or consider evidence for the life of Jesus beyond that day. Jesus died. End of his bloodline, end of this story. And, of course, no one has been looking for children of Jesus in Kashmir.

The Holy Grail legends coincide with the arrival of Prester John from India, circa 1138. He was a Christian patriarch and king said to rule over a Christian nation lost amidst the Arab incursions (the conquest of Sindh began as early as 664 and 712.)

Without taking into consideration the evidence found in Kashmir, the stories of Prester John are reduced to mere fanciful legends that Europeans cannot make sense of. Seen within the historical context of Kashmir, however, the Grail legends come alive.

The Crusades were started by the Muslims from October to December 630. After the conquest of Mecca in January 630, Muhammad launched a Crusade to Tabuk, a city in the north of Saudi Arabia.

On his way north, Muhammad extracted "agreements" from smaller Christian Arab tribes to pay the jizyah tax, accept Islam, or be attacked and killed (a jizya tax is exacted from non-Muslims for the 'privilege' of living under Islam; see Sura 9:29). They were given the option to convert, but most did not and agreed to pay the tax instead. Life was made so unbearable and inequitable under Islam that many gradually converted anyway rather than live under such inequities.

Dr. James M. Arlandson[303] states that "The city (of Jerusalem) historically and originally belonged to the Jews; they owned it a thousand years before Christ came and 1600 before Muhammad came. Former Jews converted to Christianity without ever having to leave their homeland and the relationship between Jews and Christians had always been cordial. Had Christians and Jews combined forces and worked together, the outcome for Islam and the world might be very different. When Jews were exiled, many came back as soon as it was feasible; the love for this place runs deeply in them. It is simply a myth to assume that Muslims or Christians won Jerusalem by some kind of divine right."

The word presbyter refers to a leader in local Christian congregations, sometimes known as episkopos.

Presbyter refers to ordinary priests or elders. The apostle John, who may have been John the Divine or John the Elder, or the apostle John, was 'Presbyter 1'.

The earliest organization of the Church in Jerusalem was according to most scholars similar to that of Jewish synagogues, but it had a council or college of ordained presbyters who were the individual church leaders.

The John of interest to us is the Prester John who entered European lore circa 1138 (perhaps earlier) when copies of what some claim was a 'forged'

letter started spreading throughout Europe. Otto von Freisingen, Bishop of Freising, recorded in his Historia de Duabus Civitatibus (1158) that Hugh had told the Pope about Prester John. The original letter was forwarded to Emperor Comnenus (1143–1180) asking for his help to defeat the Islamic onslaughts into Kashmir. Prester John captured the imagination of Europeans, and his letter was translated into numerous languages, including Hebrew. It was greatly embellished and dozens of forgeries were distributed in several languages.

Joseph of Arimathea, the sword in the stone, the lake, the cave in the mountains, the round table meetings, the king like Arthur, Merlin the magician (magi or rishis), the fantastical creatures can all be linked to Kashmir and India. The sword in the stone was even mentioned in the Rajatarangini by Kalhana in the 11th to 12th centuries. He said it belonged to Pravarasena, that it was an elaborately decorated ceremonial sword that King Pravarasena was particularly fond of.

Legend tells of a Sword in a Stone that is pulled out by King Arthur as proof of his birthright and of his nobility. It is both a test and a miraculous sign of his royalty. The sword at Roza Bal tomb is mounted in a stone base. There are no decorations visible on it in old photos. It was once a ceremonial sword, perhaps gilded and embedded with gems. Now the wood is old and disintegrating. It is no longer shining like the legendary Excalibur. Never the less, this *could* have been the source of that legend. Otherwise, it is hard to explain why a legend for a sword in a stone associated with a king, Arthur, who was associated with magic (magi) desposyni and Jesus, is also found in a tomb in India associated with a prophet-king named Yuz Asaf, mentioned as a sword of great pride for King Pravarasena (the first or best ruler of light) who may also be Jesus.

Then there are the footprints carved in stone at Roza Bal, perfect replicas of the scars on the feet of a man who was crucified, scars that also match those on the Shroud of Turin. Such a strong grouping of 'coincidences' don't exist anywhere else on earth. The Roza Bal tomb was built near the shores of a lake, not unlike the lake associated with the sword, Excalibur in the Arthurian legends.

Dates for a 'real' King Arthur are debated. Even the location of Camelot and the lake is not really known. Numerous locations have been suggested in England and Europe. Legends of Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table first appeared in Geoffrey of Monmouth's Historia Regum Britanniae in 1155.

This is approximately 20 years *after* Prester John became known to the west, and almost 100 years before the Mongol hordes swept down from China and destroyed most historical evidence in their paths.







Ancient Sword in the Stone was found leaning against the sarcophagus in Roza Bal tomb; photographed circa 1975, before it went missing. The ceremonial sword was mentioned in the Rajatarangini as a favorite sentimental relic of King Pravarasena 1st of Kashmir. Was this the inspiration for the Arthurian legends of Excalibur?

THEORY 1
Suzanne Olsson

Megavahana

May have been James the Just, elder brother of Jesus. Can also be associated with Joseph of Arimathea and/or Haban the Merchant. Other names associated with Megavahana as Joseph include 'Rider of the Clouds'-Abdigases-Ameshash-Spentas-Skeld-Sadashkana-(Zedechiah)-Haban-Abbani-The title reflects someone of the Mahameghavahana dynasty, which ruled after the Mauryan Empire in the first century.

Mary, Mother of Jesus

Queen Mother-Amri (Mary?)Prabha

Generation 1

Jesus-identified as Pravarasena 1-Esus-Isana-Maharaja Soter-(possibly also Kujula ben Heraios/House of David)-Tungjina II-Soter Megas(the nameless king)-Purus(Poros)-Ashvagosha-Shrestarasena-King of Kings-Great Savior(found on local coins)

Generation 2

Eli, son of Jesu (Pravarasena) also known as Heli-Elikim-Elimas-Toraman-Basileon-Josue-
(another son,Hiranya, died childless)

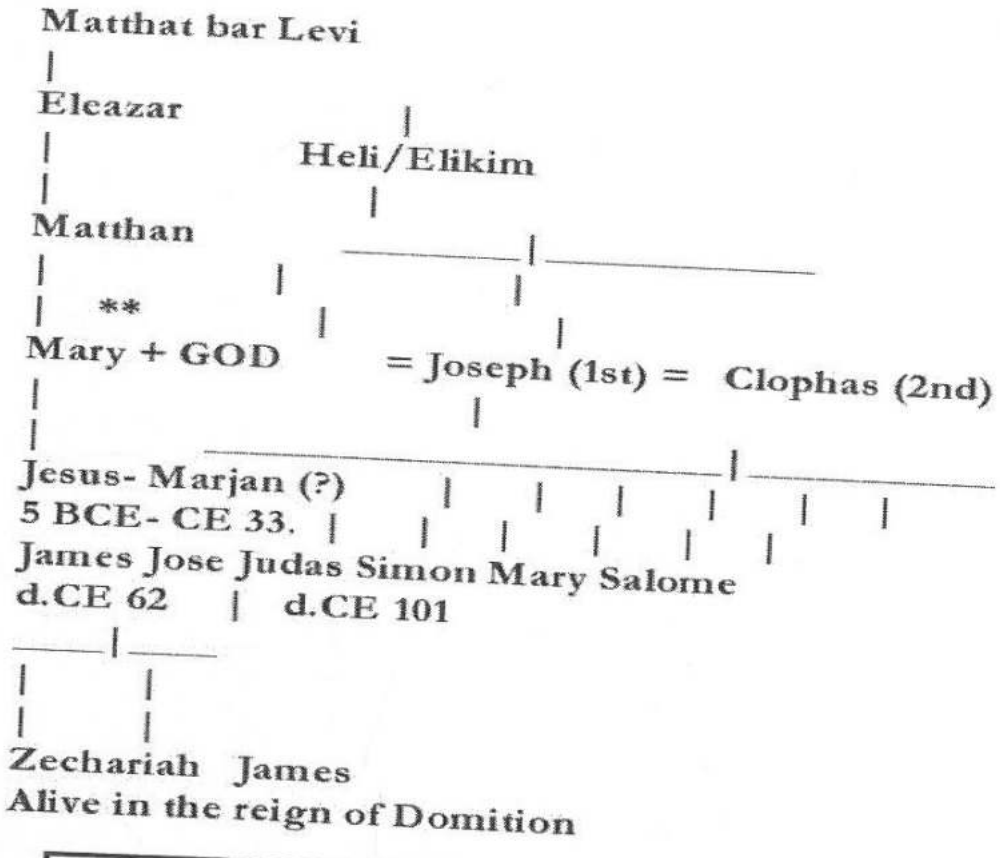
Generation 3

Pravarasena 2-Alain-Galaine

THEORY 2

Biblical Genealogy

By Dr. James Tabor*

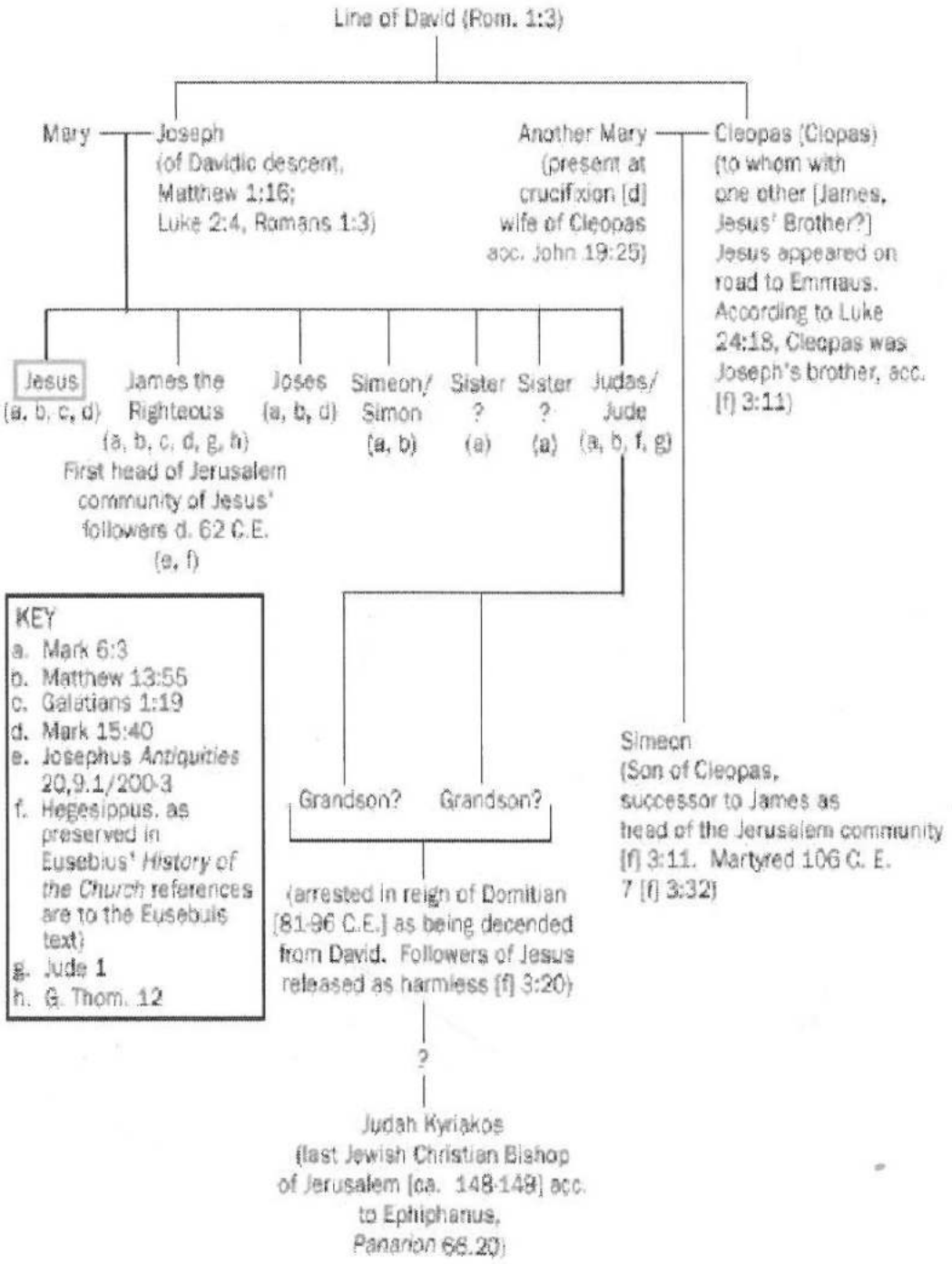


**Early Talmudic traditions referred to Jesus as Jesus ben Panthera-Jesus son of Panthera, for which scholars say there is no substance or proof to this story.

- James Tabor has studied the earliest surviving documents of Christianity for more than thirty years and has participated in important archeological excavations in Israel. Dr. Tabor is chair of the department of religious studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He holds a Ph.D. in biblical studies from the University of Chicago and is an expert on the Dead Sea Scrolls and Christian origins. The author of several books, he is frequently consulted by the media and has appeared on numerous television and radio programs.
- *Genealogy reprinted with permission.*

THEORY 3

By Madge Griswold-University of California at San Diego-2004



THE SECOND DEATH OF JESUS

Jesus as Pravarasena was the elder statesman, the 'king of kings' sought out by kings from foreign lands. His long, silver hair and brilliant blue eyes were his remarkable outward features noted in the Rajatarangini. Witnesses in the Rajatarangini saw him ascend with the gods and perform miracles. The Rajatarangini described his death about age 100 years, or 104 AD. Professor Fida Hassnain of Kashmir mentions a date of 112AD, when the tomb was first mentioned in written literature.

In the same tradition that Abraham, Solomon and Moses were told to prepare for their deaths, the 'angels' sent him a message telling him that the time of his departure was at hand. They accomplished what they had set out to do, and now it was time to come home.

Translated by Fida Hassnain-

> 'Jesus sent for Bab' (Sanskrit भ्राता Baba-Babar/brother, priest, monk) to help him prepare for his final days. If we were to look for Ba'b among the Apostles, this would not be Thomas, who was killed 20 years previously. Ba'b is most probably the apostle John, the youngest apostle. Although banished to the island of Patmos, he spent less than two years there. In *Rev. 10:11*, John's own statement is evidence of his intention to leave Patmos for an active journey among the people. Had John been a prisoner in exile, no such liberty would have been allowed, nor could he have announced such intentions. His status would have been no different from that of the apostle Paul when he was in the Roman prison. There was a monk named Anjuna. '

(Note: The correct name was probably Arjuna because Anjuna is feminine. In classical Sanskrit this is just another descriptive name. It means 'bright' or 'silver' (cf. Latin argentum) Arjuna is the third of the Pandavas., the sons and princes of Pandu, who with Krishna, is considered to be the hero of the Hindu epic Mahabharata. He plays the role of listener in the Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad Gita which is a philosophical conversation between Arjuna and Krishna.)

This monk was teaching at nearby Taxila. He was a close friend of Pravarasena. Aziz Kashmiri, p.96-

> 'Before his death, he sent for his disciple Babad, who used to serve him and was well versed in all matters. Yuz Asaf expressed his last will to Babad and said, "My time for departing this world has come. Carry on your duties properly and do not turn back from the truth." He then directed Babad to build the tomb over him at the very place he died. He then lay down with his head toward the east, and died.'

He did not request to be buried as a king in an elaborate tomb. Instead, his was a simple building in a tranquil, park-like setting near the lake. The temple on Solomon's Hill was in view.

They prayed together silently, then Jesus handed Babad the Rod of Moses and laid down on the grass in the traditional east-west alignment for Hebrew

graves. His family saw him on the meadow and quietly gathered 'round in silent grief. He felt their presence and returned their love. He closed his eyes and smiled in anticipation of the next great adventure, then released his soul to the Universe.

In the tradition of his grandfathers, Abraham, Moses, and Solomon, this was a good and noble death, his reward for a life well lived. This was the peaceful death of an old man surrounded by those who loved him, the death he was meant to have.

However, there is a mystery to this story because the historian Kalhana wrote that the vimanas brought all the sons of God to bid him farewell and bring his soul aboard. The marks left by those vimanas could still be seen on the rocks of Hari Parbat hill in Kalhana's lifetime. This is the same enigma we faced earlier at the death of Moses.

Billions of Muslims and Christians worldwide believe that Jesus is in heaven and will return one day. We can only imagine how these expectations might be fulfilled, and what surprises the future will bring.

THE LEGACY OF JESUS

When H.G. Wells was asked which person left the most permanent impression on history, he replied that we should judge a person's greatness by certain historical standards: By this test, Jesus stands first…

I am a historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus is easily the most dominant figure in all history. No man can write a history of the human race without giving the first and foremost place to Jesus.

Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of the French Empire said of Jesus-

> 'You speak of Caesar, of Alexander, of their conquests and of the enthusiasm that they enkindled in the hearts of their soldiers; but can you conceive of a dead man making conquests with a faithful army entirely devoted to his memory? My armies have forgotten me even while living…. I know men and I tell you, Jesus is no mere man. Between him and every other person in the world, there is no possible comparison.'

He was the last of a little band of Jews designated to deliver a message for mankind. Against all odds, they had the greatest impact on shaping our destiny. They took us from the Ice Age to the Space Age with little more than a rod, a staff, and true grit. They were determined to see this thing through for an unseen God that they ultimately placed all their trust and faith in.

They were the chosen ones. Although reluctant messengers at times, the rewards for being chosen were great, but the risks were even greater. Few were up to it. They cursed, they wept, they suffered, sacrificed, and at times they doubted, they stumbled and blundered and were martyred, but they did not fail.

From the *Book of the Kolbrin*;

> 'Greetings unborn ones now asleep in the dark womb of our future. Greetings from we who were once like you, and like whom you will be one day. Were you choosing a gift from the past to the future, what would it be? If it be worldly wealth and fame, then we are disappointed in you, for our labors have been in vain. What good these things a thousand years into your futures? You are our children, of our past, heirs to those who have lived and died before you. Dear unborn friends, we trust you have no cause to reproach those who once held stewardship over your estate. But whatever you think of that heritage, you cannot put it aside. This we give you, the Hidden Books containing the accumulated wisdom and truth from generations past, to you, in our futures. May this knowledge serve you well.'

Napoleon Bonaparte said-

'Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself founded empires, but what foundation did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded an empire upon love, and at this hour millions would die for him.'

The ancients compelled us to look skyward for our destiny. They told us that something wonderful is waiting for us out there and I believe them.





'Who is buried in Roza Bal tomb? A crucified prophet or a crucified king? Roza Bal shrine contains one of the biggest mysteries in the world today. It contains the tomb of Yuz Asaf who is supposed to be none other than Jesus Christ.' Yashendra Prasad, Film Board of India.

There are six tombs associated with Jesus.

1 & 2- Jerusalem, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Garden Tomb believed to have been built by Joseph of Arimathea.

3. - East Jerusalem-Talpiot tomb discovered in 1994, ossuary inscriptions purportedly of members of Jesus' family.

4.- Japan-Shingou, Aomori, based on the book 'Jesus lived in Japan' by Ahtisham Fida (1996), based on a manuscript from 1933 that claimed Jesus married a local Japanese girl and became a rice farmer.

5. France- supported by authors Sylvia brown, Michael Baigent, Christine Doumergue and others.

6. Kashmir, India- Roza Bal tomb, which has the most significant evidence.

I visited tombs and graves with my grandmother when I was a young girl. I had expectations about tombs. They represented respect the dead and were maintained with integrity. These visits could be very emotional if one felt a strong bond with the deceased. But what if the family members have moved on? What if the graves are far away, or even in another land? What if the graves are very old and the land is needed for the living? What if there are valuable jewels or things of great historical significance inside the graves? And what of religious differences and intolerance?

Hindus cremate their dead. Can they be expected to maintain ancient graves and tombs in India when burial is not part of their religious or social core values? These are hard questions. Many Islamists do not believe in tombs. They bury their dead in graves that should be unmarked and abandoned –not worshipped or prayed over or maintained in any way. In their view, even ancient historic tombs should be torn down for apartment and office buildings.

These are the conflicts and questions we are up against at the Roza Bal tomb. From this point forward, we will consider the contrasts, conflicts, and histrocity of Islam because no other religion in the world is advocating the destruction of ancient historical graves. Even the Great Sphynx is threatened by this ideology.

When I saw the tomb of Roza Bal for the first time, I did not expect it to have the majesty and grandeur of the Pantheon (built about the same time) or Hadrian's Tomb, Westminster Abbey, or Saint Peter's Basilica, not the Taj Mahal, or Cyrus the Great tomb…. those are tombs on a grand scale befitting the high and lofty positions people held in life. In the old days, a man often spent years occupied with the design and construction of his own tomb.

Jesus, also a powerful world figure, might have had an impressive tomb too, but he chose a modest tomb. Although modern examination has not been allowed because of religious intolerance, it appears the tomb was originally a small cave hewn out of the rock ground, then a stone room was built above. The casket and relics were placed in the above-ground tomb, the body was

actually below. Under the guise of 'remodeling' the tomb has been at least partially destroyed several times through the centuries by iconoclasts. Iconoclasm is the deliberate destruction within a culture of the culture's own religious icons and other symbols or monuments, usually for religious or political motives. It is a frequent component of major political or religious changes, such as the takeover by Islam after arriving in India.

In this description of iconoclasm, the historian Upendra Thakur records the persecution of Hindus and Buddhists and destruction of ancient sites-

> ' ... Muhammad triumphantly marched into the country, conquering Debal, Sehwan, Nerun, Brahmanadabad, Alor and Multan one after the other in quick succession, and in less than a year and a half, the far-flung Hindu kingdom was crushed ... There was a fearful outbreak of religious bigotry in several places and temples were wantonly desecrated. At Debal, the Nairun and Aror temples were demolished and converted into mosques.'

Sir Walter Lawrence records in his "*Vale of Kashmir*" that all books of Hindu learning were sunk in the Dal Lake. Books of history, families, kings, science, astronomy, space travel, medicine and the like were destroyed. The labor and wisdom of countless ages and countless researchers was gone forever.[304] The conquerors believed the Quran contained all the information that mankind needed. That is still the attitude of extremists today. There is not another group anywhere in the world that seems so determined to leave its mark through mass destruction.

To this day it is the custom of Saudi-Wahab Islamists to encourage destruction of all graves, images, temples, museums, and anything they regard as potential to become something of veneration. Even the tomb of Muhammad is under constant threat of destruction by his own followers. Since the 'Arab Spring' began in 2010, turmoil in the Middle East has escalated. Even World-Heritage sites are not respected. They are looted and destroyed right along with everything else.

It is against this background that we are struggling to save Roza Bal or at least recover the DNA. To say this may be the grave of Issa, Jesus, or Yuz Asaph is not going to save it. For me to say this is the grave of a beloved grandfather or family member was the only way to stand up to the threats and the onslaught of destruction. Now that the original family caretakers have been pushed aside, Roza Bal is again on perilous ground.

Roza Bal is the mausoleum of Yuz Asaf *and* of a Muslim named Sayed Nasr-ud-Din Rizvi. He was buried beside Yuz Asaf in 1451 AD, almost fifteen hundred years *after* the original Hebrew grave was dug there. Burying a Muslim in a non-Muslim grave, as happened at Roza Bal, is strictly forbidden in Islamic law, and so I was shocked to find out how often Muslims twisted and manipulated or outright ignored their own laws in order to claim a

historic site for their own. Identity theft seems to me a worse crime than theft of artifacts and gold.

> 627- It is not permitted to bury a Muslim in the graveyard of the non-Muslims, nor to bury a non-Muslim in the graveyard of the Muslims.[305]

Imagine entering the tomb of any great man, Cyrus, or Alexander, Abraham Lincoln or Ghandi (if he had a grave) or even Muhammad, and placing the body of your friend's brother or son in the same tomb. Imagine burying a Catholic saint next to Muhammad! It is a ludicrous idea, and yet Roza Bal stands as proof that things like this happen in the Islamic world.

Outside the tomb wall is a nearly vacant cemetery with Islamic markers. Obviously, there was ample room to bury Sayed Nasr Uddin elsewhere, suggesting that other motives were at work. We will return to this shortly.

Arjuna (sometimes spelled as Anjuna) a Sanskrit word for John/Johannes, was the name of a monk from Taxila who had Roza Bal built between 90 and 112 CE. The name first appears as one of the Pandavas and a great warrior in the Mahabharata epic. Anjuna/John, the youngest of Jesus' disciples, may have been 50 or 60 years old when Jesus died. He was probably the same person as Babad, whom Jesus summoned when death was near.

On the signboard outside the tomb of Roza Bal are two names, one is for a 'saint' buried in the same tomb, Sayed Nasiruddin Rizvi. However no records support the view that he was a saint. This seems to be a recent myth added on as a deterrent to keep non-Muslims away from investigating the tomb.

The name 'Youza Asif' is transliterated to yuda asif—yuda/yoda from the Sanskrit word yoddha meaning "warrior" or the (Hebr.) word yodea meaning "one who knows"...Asif means 'forgiveness'. It is easy to see the correlation between the root words for Yudhisthira the warrior and King David, also the Yoddha. In Sanskrit, Yoddha means 'the warrior.' In Hebrew Yoddha/Yodea means 'one who knows' (is wise). As we saw previously, in Afghanistan using the term Asaph was common for 'son of' as in Gondasaph (lineage of Gad). I believe this is the explanation for Yuz Asaph- 'son of Joseph' because it fits with local language and custom.

The name Isa or Issa derives from the Syrian, Yeshu (Jesus). The name Budasaf/Bud-Asaf and Yuz Asaf can be the same person. Jesus is known in Kashmir in the Buddhist legend written in Arabic, 'Book of Balauhar and Budasaf', the IkmaJ-ud-Din, authored by scholar Al-Shaikh Al-Said-us-Sadiq, who died in 962. Holger Kersten suggests that the name Yuz Asaf may have a Buddhist derivation. In Sanskrit, this phrase would be 'bodhi sattva,' or 'budasaf'. In Syrian, Arabic and Persian, 'Budaaf' would read like 'Judasaf' or 'Yudasaf,' since their letters J and B are nearly identical. However, the best application is still 'Asaf' to denote 'son of', as in Gand-asaph (Pashtu) son of Gandopharnes, thus Yuzasaf becomes 'son of Joseph.' The word Roza Bal

may be derived from the Kashmir term Rauza (holy-auspicious) Bal (place of) translated as "tomb of the prophet". According to author Fida Hassnain, the tomb was purportedly built in 109 AD and was mentioned in writings as early as 112AD. [306]

Included with the original tomb and appearing in earlier photos was an intricately carved entrance door (now missing) with figures and scenes from the life of YuzAsaf, tiles on the floor with additional scenes, a wooden lattice around the sarcophagus (now gone) blue painted interior trim and markings on the tomb walls in the cellar underneath the floor (all missing) an intricately carved coffin (now missing) made extra-long to accommodate the Rod of Moses, and authenticated by a sort of 'pedigree', a history of its ownership recorded and maintained by the rishis. Also, a scroll or ancient book sold off to a visiting Pakistani for 100 rupees (about 30 years ago), the original scrolls of Yuz Asaf's genealogy, a small candle holder, a stone alter to hold candles, the 'sword in the stone', and the carved stone feet depicting crucifixion wounds.





The ancient foot carvings found at Roza Bal tomb, the scars are asymmetrical, in the same pattern as the wounds on the Shroud of Turin- one foot painfully twisted over the other and both held with one nail. The footprints of the Buddha started appearing in the First Century. Rather than wounds, they were called buddhapadda, and were decorated with symbols that represented 'The Path' or 'the Way.' These marks are called Dhamacakra and Triratna.

There may have been other relics in the tomb that have been removed through the centuries. What I have listed is what we may yet be able to recover and save. Offers of money might tempt more people to come forward with objects their great grandfathers may have removed from the tomb. After Islam arrived in the Valley, the tomb was opened, the artifacts including the Rod were removed, and some were distributed among local Imams. The Rod of Moses was in a casket specially built extra-long to accommodate its length of 8'3" (2.54m). The Rod was removed and passed through several hands until finally

ending up at the Aish Muqam cave and mosque: 'Aish'-Isha-Jesus/'Muquam' -place of rest.

The next most auspicious mention of Roza Bal is recorded in a court document. The tomb attracted visitors from around the world, and these pilgrims left small donations for the upkeep of the tomb. The number of visitors and their donations to this tomb must have been sizeable because there was a squabble over who 'owned' the rights to the tomb. This was settled in a court case, and the original documents are still in the archives in Srinagar. The court decision dated 1776 C.E. reads-

> 'The Prophet Yuz Asaf was a prince whose tomb was visited by high and low from foreign lands; and Sayed Nasiruddin Rizvi[307], a descendant of Imam Moosa ali Rizvi'. [Note he was not regarded as a saint or this fact would have been stated at that time- the name Rizvi is common among Shia Muslims].
>
> He was buried beside Yuz Asaf.[308] Rahman Khan shall receive the offerings and no one else has any right or connection with these offerings. 11th Jumadi al Thani 1194 AH…. [followed by signatures of five Mullahs and four witnesses.] ('Christ in Kashmir' pp. 90-91)

Who was Rahman Khan that he appeared and took control of the tomb and the money? This is never made clear. Was he a relative? A hereditary guardian? Or was he seizing the tomb as a Waqf for his own personal trust fund? Is Bashrat Shaheen a descendant of Rahman Khan? Or of Yuz Asaph? Nothing is clear. According to locals, several original documents that were stored in the tomb have recently been sold off to Pakistani agents for a mere one hundred rupees ($2.00 U.S. currency), but they may still be recoverable if a small reward is offered.

The tomb has been altered numerous times. Originally painted in the sacred blue of the Hebrews, Tekelet (Hebrew: תכלת, turquoise or blue) is a blue dye from a shellfish called Chilazon mentioned 50 times in the Tanakh. The original blue paint was covered over and the tomb is now painted pink and green, the green, of course, representing Islam. Even the stone walls that once contained precise information about Yuz Asaf have been plastered over and all original information is obliterated. This has also been done at the tombs of Muhammad, his son and his grandson.[309]

Holger Kersten visited the tomb in 1989, and actually witnessed some of the damage in progress as ancient wood, tiles, and artifacts were chopped up and tossed out.

He has a piece of the original wooden grill that was cut into small bits and sold to visitors. Sadly, the destroying, breaking up, and selling of antiquities has become a lucrative source of income for many.[310]

There is a family in Kashmir claiming to be descended from Yuz Asaf. The father, now deceased, was Bashrat Shaheen. Mr. Shaheen made statements that appeared worldwide in news articles and Internet interviews

claiming to have original scrolls documenting the bloodline from Jesus to his family. Yet on all occasions when he was asked to produce this document, he claimed it was held in sacred trust and he would not allow anyone to see the entire document, nor copy it in any way.

At first he refused DNA testing. We had planned to meet to discuss a joint DNA Project involving his family and mine. He seemed keen on that idea, but he died before our meeting took place.

His death was ruled a suicide although no autopsy was ever performed. The ancient scrolls and other books and documents went missing from his home and have never been recovered. They may have been hidden, but we do not know the facts.

Mr. Shaheen claimed his family was the tomb's hereditary caretakers and official representatives. However, the tomb was never a primary means of support, and the family had numerous interests and careers. Mr. Shaheen had a restaurant in Srinagar that became very successful, but it required long hours of work and commuting. Further, the Khanyar area of Srinagar had seen a rise in militancy, endangering his family.

Mr. Shaheen made the decision to move his family across town. He left a local man in charge of the day-to-day management of the tomb. Mr. Shaheen was to be contacted if anyone wanted to make a donation, have a tour, an interview about the tomb, or a film documentary. This was heady stuff for a poor local man to be expected to manage properly. Further, it drew the attention of others who suddenly became aware just how lucrative the donations were to this tomb. Within a short time, Mr. Shaheen lost control, over the affairs of the tomb. It then got included in a Waqf- a private Islamic trust controlled by the Farooq Abdullah family. Then they lost control to a WAQF Board of Directors. This is nothing more than five local businessmen who appointed themselves and formed the Trust. This will be discussed again shortly.

Highly stressed about the destruction of the tomb and the desecration and removal of artifacts, Mr. Shaheen initiated a court hearing to have the interlopers removed from the tomb. He started receiving death threats against his family and was forced to withdraw the charges. He went into a deep depression that, according to his family, lasted the rest of his life.

After I arrived in Kashmir and heard the laments of the Shaheen family and their failed efforts to prevent the desecration of the tomb, I took a bold move and declared that Yuz Asaf was also *my* grandfather. By Islamic law, this gave me the right to seek protection of the tomb, not as a casual tourist, not as a researcher or author, but as a seriously connected family member. Laurence Gardner, author of '*Bloodline of the Holy Grail*' offered to help. He created my family genealogy based in part on the facts we had through the Demarest Museum publications. I promptly copied and distributed this to the local Board of Roza Bal Directors. The idea was to intercede where the

Shaheen family could not, to stand up to the Board and the militants and prevent further destruction of the tomb, especially if they knew many others around the world were equally concerned. I requested the tomb be moved to a safer location, to Hari Parbat Fort, and add a Museum there for the entire world to visit and do their research. In other words, try to remove the tomb from any religious sensitivity and give it historical value for tourism of all Kashmir. That seemed the only approach they might be willing to work with, especially if they were allowed to control the tomb and thus the wealth from tourist dollars.

These ideas did not work. Instead it led to more death threats, just as Mr. Shaheen went through a few years earlier. The caretaker took my letters to the local press. Taken out of context, I was made to appear no different than modern publicity-seeking Magdalenes and Desposyni hopefuls making up stories for personal gain, glory, and the almighty dollar. I was ridiculed and accused of tomb robbing, or worse of helping the Ahmaddis and of accepting bribes from the Vatican. No one beyond Kashmir could possibly understand the situation and the desperate efforts being made to stand up to these miscreants, to recover and protect the tomb and its relics. I was terrified every moment that I stood up to them. In desperation I tried, but I failed.

WAQF TRUSTS

A waqf is an Arab-Islamic concept established by a living man or woman (the waqf = founder) who holds a certain revenue-producing property, and makes the property inalienable in perpetuity, prohibited from sale, gift and inheritance. A Waqf Board of Directors controls Roza Bal tomb, and so it is worth a discussion to understand what we are up against. A Waqf also controls the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Jerusalem, the place where Abraham and Sarah are buried. Thus Waqfs have some interest to all Christians and Jews.

The institution of waqf is not mentioned in the Quran, but is derived from a number of hadiths (traditions of Muhammad). It usually involves property acquired from abandoned properties, widows, children, orphans, or anyone deemed incapable to manage their property. Waqfs come under three different definitions; private/family, or charitable, or both. From that point on, it is governed by rules made up along the way by individual creators of each Waqf. In other words, there are no set pre-determined rules.

Most waqf property in Israel has been expropriated and returned to Israel under Absentee Property Laws, and it is one of the most sensitive and complicated issues in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Examples of places controlled by Waqf trusts include Al-Aqsa Mosque, Solomon's stables, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem (the Jewish connection to the Temple Mount dates back more than 3,000 years), the Cave of Machpelah, burial site of Abraham and Sarah, and Rachel's Tomb. These sites are sacred to Jews and originally of Jewish origin. The situation at Roza Bal differs in

that a Muslim was later buried in the same tomb as a non-Muslim, breaking all rules that Muslims themselves are supposed to follow in the Quran and the hadiths.

Control of Roza Bal may have changed again since I wrote this. The Waqf in Kashmir that controlled Roza Bal consisted of a small group of men who act as Board of Directors/Trustees. They have been acquiring property for many years, and have more financial interests than just this tomb. The tomb was originally in the hands of Bashrat Shaheen and his family. Exactly how they lost control of the tomb is a mystery, but it had not gone well. For a while the Farooq Abdullah (a former Chief Minister of Kashmir) family got control and included the tomb in their own family Trust, or Waqf. Then control was held by a Board of Directors who fought openly and publically to gain control. I may err on some of these details. Not all the facts are publicly known or published in local newspapers. Bashrat Shaheen was so distraught at losing the tomb that he tried to take his case to court, but was deterred by threats to himself and his family.

The Waqf Trust at Roza Bal also looks after 89 shrines, mosques, and 39 other properties. Its property includes 158 buildings (residential, official and commercial complexes) having as many as 1,500 shops at prime locations, hundreds of acres of land, including forests and apple orchards, and over 700 employees. In 2011-2012 this Waqf generated Rs 17 crore income [311] (1 crore equals one million rupees-17 crore is over 3 million US Dollars)

In September 2012, the '*Greater Kashmir*' newspaper published an article describing how graveyards were being sold off to private families for farm-land or buildings, and the money was kept by individual Board members-[312]

> 'This Waqf Board is the second largest asset-rich body in Jammu and Kashmir after the State Government. Thousands of kanals (1/8 acre) of land and 1500 shops are owned by the Board in Kashmir. In Srinagar, the Waqf Board has revenue and estate assets at prime locations like Khanyar, Karan Nagar, Hazratbal, the Boulevard, Munawarabad, Maisuma…'

The Waqf (Trust) generates huge profits, most of which goes to the salaries of the Board of Trustees. There is dispute over whether the originators of the Waqf can reserve exclusive rights to use the income. Most scholars agree that once the waqf is founded, it purportedly cannot be taken back, although there have been court cases that have rescinded Waqfs, especially those that were established on property seized from orphans and widows, and under various dubious circumstances. Many cases exist in Israel where Waqfs were ignored or rescinded and reverted back to Israel controlled property because the Arabs simply abandoned their property and moved elsewhere. Sharia law does not apply because Israeli law is the first and only recognized law of the land. The same rules apply to all sovereign countries. They cannot be governed by conflicting laws. Otherwise chaos and anarchy would follow.

A waqf can be declared null and void by the kadi or religious judge if its formation includes committing illegal acts, or it does not satisfy other conditions of validity. Since waqf is an Islamic institution, it also becomes void if the founder is of, or converts to another religion.

We can be sure that Jesus did not convert to Islam post-humously. He can be regarded as a Christian or a Jew, but never a Muslim. This renders the Waqf control unIslamic and illegal. Either Jesus needs to be moved out of the tomb and reburied, or Sayed Nasiruddin Rizvi needs to be moved out of the tomb and reburied elsewhere.

Donations to the tomb came in from worldwide sources, from people who have visited the tomb and believe it to be the tomb of Jesus. For example, in good faith one Italian woman agreed to donate U.S. $5,000.00 for renovations. The money went straight to someone's private account in Kashmir and never benefited the tomb. Donations like this go unaccounted for every year. As of this writing, the tomb is closed, locked, sealed, every artifact has been removed, and no visitors are allowed. Some speculate that it is being destroyed ("remodeled") from within to remove all traces of Yuz Asaf and his true identity. Even the bones could be switched in anticipation of future DNA testing, and none would be the wiser except perhaps some darn good archaeologists.

In August 2013, the tomb is again being remodeled. Unconfirmed rumors are that the Shaheen family has regained, or is attempting to regain control of the tomb. Of necessity, they would have to proceed quietly and cautiously. I await further news.

It is believed that many threats of violence against visitors are instigated by local Imams who considered the idea that Yuz Asaf was Jesus- as blasphemy against the Quran. This attitude came about after the formation of the Ahmaddi religion, and their support of the tomb. The locals have made a great show of menacing tourists and film crews, sometimes even blasting Ahmaddis on documentary films that are seen worldwide. They claim the whole 'tomb of Jesus' idea is contradicting the Quran, and has become an outrageous Ahmaddi plot. This makes no sense because until a few years ago, Shaheen, a Muslim, had the tomb and claimed Yuz Asaf was his ancestor Jesus, and not one eyebrow was raised in contradiction.

In 2010, during the documentary filming of Roza Bal by the Film Board of India, the film crew left Kashmir in fear without finishing their documentary filming.[313]

AHMADDIS AND BA HAI- TWO ISLAMIC REFORMERS

Ahmaddi and Ba Hai are two sects founded by Muslims who wanted to reform Islam. Both claim to be reformers of the faith. Both are refused admission to Mecca by the Saudis and are considered outcasts and non-Muslims because Muslims claim that no prophets can be recognized after

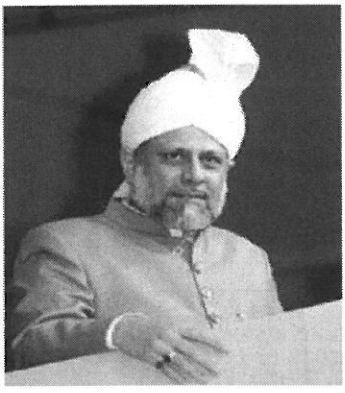
Muhammad. His word, his prophethood was final for the world. The Mujaddid according to Ahmaddis was Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani. The Mujaddid according to Bahais was Shaykh Ahmad bin Zayn-ud-Deen al-Ahsaai.

The Mahdi according to Ahmadis was Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani. The Mahdi according to Bahais was Ali Mohammad Shirazi. The Promised One according to Ahmaddis was Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani. The Promised One according to Bahais was Mirza Hussain. Ali Nuri. The Promised Reformer according to Ahmaddis was Mirza Basheer-ud-Din Mahmood. The Promised Reformer according to Bahais was Mirza Abbas Effendi "Abdul-Baha".

Mizra Ghulam Ahmad (1835–1908) is our main focus because of his views and support of the Roza Bal tomb. He was the founder of the Ahmaddi movement. He originated in the Punjab, famous for producing the founder of the Sikhs, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. (The Jains were founded by Mahavir in Bihar, India. No one knows exactly where Zoroaster/Zarathustra/ was born in 628 BCE, probably in Iran.)

The Punjab (land of 5 rivers) was split in half in 1947 and divided between India and the new formation of Pakistan. This was done by the British after pressure from Muslim separatists. Kashmir was also divided at this time, one half in Pakistan and one half in India. The tomb of Jesus is in India Kashmir (IOK), and the grave of Mother Mary and Joseph are now on the Pakistan side of the border (POK).

Mizra Ghulam Ahmad was a kind and gentle man (each Ahmaddi leader has been a pacifist, shunning violence and inequality.)



His Holiness Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (b.1950) the fifth Khalifa (Caliph) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. He serves as the spiritual and administrative head of an international organization with millions of followers spread across 200 countries.

He most closely fits descriptions and expectations of prophets by the same yardstick we have measured others. He proclaimed himself to be the "Centennial Reformer of Islam" (Mujaddid), metaphorical second coming of Jesus and the Mahdi (guided one) foretold by the Muslims. By all the criteria we have applied throughout this book, he filled the role of prophet as well as any founder of any other religion. He emphasized the good verses and good examples in the Quran, identifying more closely with Christianity than the militancy of Islam.

His goal was to blend the two faiths and bring peace and harmony to Islam. In my personal opinion, the faith would have fared better had it separated itself from Islam altogether and created an entirely new religion, as Siddharta Buddha or Guru Nanak dev ji and Mahavir had done (dev means godlike/ji means respected sir or madame). This would have removed any chance for future Islamists to act on the controversial Quran verses and hadiths that continue to cause suffering and strife in the world today.

Ahmad obtained a considerable following especially within the United Provinces, the Punjab and Sindh. Ahmaddis today are very active in seeking new converts.

Worldwide estimates are at several million Ahmaddis today. In 1889, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad laid down the foundation of his community, which was later given the name of the "Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at." Today, the Ahmadiyya community has a presence in 200 countries.

They are legally identified as Muslims worldwide except in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, where they are persecuted. In Pakistan they are prohibited by law from calling themselves Muslims. They are not allowed by Saudi law to make Hajj, a pilgrimage that is a basic tenet of faith by Muslims.

The Ahmaddis Movement is the only religious organization in the world to recognize Roza Bal tomb as the tomb of Jesus.

The verses in the Quran, Chapter Al-Nisa (4:158-159) support the Ahmaddi beliefs that Jesus did not die on the Cross and that God had "raised" Jesus instead (saved him) for a better life elsewhere on earth-

> [4:158] And their saying, 'We killed the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah;' whereas they slew him not, nor crucified him, but he was made to appear to them like one crucified; and those who differ therein are certainly in a state of doubt about it; they have no definite knowledge thereof, but only follow a conjecture; and they did not convert this conjecture into a certainty.'
>
> SURA MARYAM-Verse Number 15 of Sura 19:
>
> Translation by Yusuf Ali:
>
> 'Peace on him the day he was born the day that he dies and the day that he will be raised up to life (again).'

We come to an interesting twist of history and words here because most modern apologists believe the story originated with a story about the Buddha from the second century, then later twisted to become a story about Jesus in the fourth century. However, there is nothing anywhere in Buddhist literature to suggest he rose off his death bed at age 80, after severe food poisoning, and went on to preach another fifty years! The life story of a Buddha from a 2nd to 4th century Sanskrit Mahayana Buddhist text, to a Manichee version, which then found its way into Muslim culture as the Arabic Kitab Bilawhar wa-Yudasaf (Book of Bilawhar and Yudasaf) was current in Baghdad in the 8th century. Paul C. Pappas[314] states that from a historical perspective, this

identification of Yuzasaf relies on legends and documents which include clear historical errors (e.g. Gondophares' reign) and that "it is almost impossible to identify Yuz Asaf with Jesus". No, it is not impossible!

One point he overlooked is evidence by the Fourth Buddhist Council held in Kashmir in the First century.

FOURTH BUDDHIST COUNCIL IN KASHMIR

In the first century there was still a problem compiling stories about the Buddha and his teachings. Much remained unwritten and misunderstood. To develop a final version, King Kanishka called for the Fourth Buddhist Council, inviting 500 monks for a period of nearly ten years. The remains of their huts still exist on the hillside around Harwan. Pravarasena was king at the time, and hosted the event. If Pravarasena was Jesus, then it was *Jesus* who had the final influence on the Buddhist texts! The stories from Jesus life were blended with the stories from Buddha's life. In his book, '*The Emergence of Hindusim from Christianity*', Professor M.M. Ninan notes that Christianity also influenced Hinduism at this time. Several of the Puranas show strong Christian input and similarities. The *Bhavishya Purana* (19th Chapter, Texts 17 to 32) even mentions Jesus meeting King Shalivahana. In the *Bhagavad Gita* (the compilation was not completed until the second century CE) Krishna is teaching a universal monotheistic religion of personal God and reveals himself to be all-God, svayam bhagavan. The childhood episodes of Krishna's legend became the focus of the medieval devotional cults that started to develop in a number of movements in medieval India.

Buddhist texts had only been written in Prakrit. At the Fourth Buddhist Council they were written in Sanskrit for the first time, making them widely available and understood.

N.N. Ninan, pp 2-3-4:

> "There are statements most people have come to accept as truth that have no actual bearing on reality. The Vedic religion is the oldest, dating back at least 1.7 million years. Hinduism is 50,000 years old, the oldest religion known to man. Sanskrit is at least 3,500 years old. Rama lived over 20,000 years ago. The name Krishna did not even exist before the third century AD.
>
> The fact is that none of these claims can even remotely be supported by any objective evidence. The facts are that:
>
> Hinduism as known today did not even exist before the second century AD. Sanskrit began only in the late first and early second century AD. There were no "Hindu Temples" before the first-second century AD. Hinduism as it exists today is the original Thomas Gnostic Christianity."

Muhammad could not read or write. Over the course of his life, he hired 42 scribes to compose the Quran along the lines he dictated from his visions. The

Arabian Peninsula was primarily Jewish and Christian tribes. From among these was the Christian named Abdullah Ibn Abu Sarh, most famous for challenging Muhammad about the authenticity of his revelations.

In summary, what we have is the Judeo-Christian influence on Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. I find this truly astounding. Dr. Barry Downing, a fully ordained Presbyterian minister in New York wrote, (*The Bible and Flying Saucers*, pp.34-40):

> 'We have arrived at the point where we have to take seriously the idea that perhaps intelligent superior beings were at work binging about the ideas in the Biblical religion. These beings were not totally responsible for the Biblical religion-the religions grew among men in the midst of flesh, blood, and history. But who planted the religion? (the ideas)...what is the evidence for realistic rather than mythological data....what is the significance?'

'On earth as it is in Heaven' suggests that we are being prepared to live our lives among our galactic neighbors. We have been given the ground rules.

WAHABI-SALAFI

The Ahmaddi association with Roza Bal tomb clashes with the Wahabi-Sunni viewpoint, and has added to the difficulties facing the tomb. Not only is the tomb caught in an Islam-Christian struggle, it is also caught in struggles among Muslim sects. Most everyone (who is not a Sunni Muslim) who approaches the tomb now is accused of being sympathetic to the Ahmaddis, ostracized, and driven away. Comments and threats against Ahmaddis made by tomb caretakers and local residents even appear in several films and documentaries that can be viewed on 'YouTube' and other internet sites. Mizra Ghulam Ahmad said-

> 'The sect called Ahl-i-Hadith also known as Wahhabis, regarding a bloody Mahdi and a bloody Messiah[315], are affecting their morals very badly, so much so, that on account of their bad influence their dealings with other people are not based on honesty and good will, nor can they be truly and completely loyal to a non-Muslim Government. All reasonable men will realize that such a belief.... is open to the most serious objections....it is extremely undesirable to coerce (anyone) on pain of death, to adopt a Faith. Far from contributing to the growth of that Faith, this would furnish the opponents with an opportunity to find fault with it. The ultimate result of a principle like this is that men (become spiteful) and enmity grows; there remain behind only the animal passions, wiping out all high moral qualities....such a teaching could not have come from God....so the doctrine of Jihad proposed by these sects of Islam.... is utterly opposed to our moral sense....these Maulvies[316] are incapable of teach-

ing people decency and peace... killing others without rhyme or reason is with them a great religious duty.'[317]

"Love for all. Hatred for none."

And indeed, followers of Ahmad have paid dearly for these words of moderation, peace, and restraint. Worldwide, they are outcast from mainstream Islam, hunted down, and killed in the thousands. Yet they have always demonstrated themselves to be the most peaceful and rational version of Islam the world has yet witnessed.

ROZA BAL TIMELINE

Chronology of Roza Bal:

100 AD (approximate) Roza Bal tomb existed and was immediately acknowledged as the tomb of Jesus.[318]

1000 years later>

997-1030...Mahmud Ghazni invades Kashmir and destroys most historical records (first invasion was in 632, then 997, then again 1349-1389 (Sikander) then 1413, then 1588 (Akbar.)

125 years later>

1165-1180... Prester John and Holy Grail stories appear in Europe. Ancient "sword in the stone" exists at Roza Bal and was seen in photos until recently.

243 years later>

1400 Hazrat Mir Syed Ali of Hamdan has the Rod of Moses. The filial goes missing.[319]

1395-1400... Sikander invades Kashmir, continues destruction of historical records and sites.

8 years later>

1408-61 Rod is given to Hazrat Zain ud-din Wali. He is buried at Jesus' cave, Aish (Isha-Jesus) Muqam (resting place) and the rod remains there to this day.

51 years later>

1451... Said Nairuddin Rizvi buried in Roza Bal, 51 years after Sikander brought Islam to the Valley. The tomb is now associated with Islam and loses identity as a Christian site.

315 years later>

1766...Court Decree Gives Roza Bal money to Rehman Khan. His connection to the tomb is never clearly established. Was he a direct descendant *and* a caretaker, or simply a caretaker?

230 years later>

1996... Roza Bal caretaker was Shabzada Ghulam Mohid-ud Din, circa to 1942. After him....

Bashrat Shaheen was caretaker for approximately 30-40 years. Then Mohammed Amin Ringshawl took over Roza Bal as caretaker-custodian and continued "modernization" which has been tantamount to destruction of the historicity of the tomb. He appears in numerous documentaries worldwide

(most recent in 2010)giving conflicting claims about the tomb, that it was built for a Muslim-Afghan prophet, or for an Egyptian prophet, or that it is not a tomb at all, but an Ahmaddi plot to destroy Islam. This initiated several failed attempts by the Shaheen family to rescue the tomb.[320]

2001... Bashrat Shaheen dies mysteriously at home just days before our scheduled meeting. Documents, scrolls, and corroborating evidence were removed from his office and have not been seen since.

14 years later>

2010 . . . The tomb is mentioned in the *'Lonely Planet'* guidebook as the probable tomb of Jesus, but when visitors arrive, the tomb is stripped bare of relics, entry is barred, and local militants repeatedly threaten visitors and documentary film crews, and often blame Ahmadiyyas for spreading lies about Jesus in the tomb.[321]

For further information about the tomb, read research by Atika Sadeeqa, Fida Hassnain, Holger Kersten, and Aziz Kashmiri, among others.

HISTORICAL REVISIONISM

Roza Bal is not just a tomb in a troubled Himalayan valley far from world events. The tomb is a link in world events, one part of a huge global Islamic plan. The Islamic period began 1430 years ago, just 600 years after the beginning of Christianity. Yuz Asaf was buried here in 90-100AD. If he had been buried 300 years later, as the sign outside the tomb now states, then it could not possibly be the tomb of Jesus, and that is exactly what they're counting on....this kind of historical misinformation and "revisionism" is used in hopes of diverting researchers. They are counting on people accepting their claims and not looking further. The local Directors are struggling against researchers because they fear losing a very lucrative personal income derived from the tomb. The situation is aggravated by Wahab-Salafi Muslims in the Middle East enforcing their narrow interpretation of graves and tombs and the rights of descendants (who have *no* rights according to them).

In recent documentaries, interviews and articles about Roza Bal tomb, it is repeated that the man buried beside Yuz Asaf is a Muslim saint, thus no Muslim would tolerate opening the tomb for research, as this is offensive to Muslim beliefs. Well, none of this is true. The additional man buried in Roza Bal tomb may have been a Muslim, but he was never a saint. His father was a pious man. Nowhere in history was either father or son referred to as a saint except in the last few years when this story was concocted. It is a fabrication made up by locals to discredit the fact that Yuz Asaf may be Jesus, and may be the original occupant of this tomb. Islam has a long worldwide history of such intolerance, fabrications, and historical revisionism. In the course of writing this book, I rely on Internet research for books and information that I could not obtain otherwise, and this has led to hugely extended hours, days,

weeks, and months of research to determine the most accurate and least slanted portrayal of events.

The massive worldwide website, Wikipedia, comes up frequently in web searches. It prides itself on being an online encyclopedia, with contributions to articles made by people worldwide. Some are highly respected scholars in their field.

Even there a form of 'stealth jihad' is apparent in the amount of Islamic historical 'revisionism' being written into encyclopedic pages. Their primary goal has been to delete references to invasions and the violence of Islam's spread, and gives the illusion that Islam was peaceful and welcome in almost every country it entered, even in a state of war. This is simply not true, as even a quick search through history sets straight. One example is the deliberately planted rumor, in spite of the evidence to the contrary, that 9-11 was an act of the CIA, or the Jews. Some pages are so contentious between Palestinians and Israelis that edits are banned, pages are locked and arbitrators are needed to determine which version of history will be tolerated by the majority. Stealth jihad is thriving in the electronics age. Misinformation currently appears at Wikipedia and other sources about Roza Bal tomb, identifying Rizvi as an Islamic saint, and the relics as possible 14th century fakes. The Archaeology Survey of India does *not* support these views after more than 60 years of intensive research into the tomb.

When Professor Hassnain was appointed Director of State Archives, Archaeology Research and Museums in 1954, he was a Sunni Muslim in opposition to Ahmaddi views about Roza Bal. He was in a good position to discredit the relics and tomb's historicity. Instead, he was so overwhelmed by the evidence that he became convinced Roza Bal ***is*** the tomb of Jesus, based on the evidence and scanty remaining documentation. He risked everything to stand by those claims, and to this day the Archeology Department of the Government of India has found nothing that contradicts or cast doubt on the historicity of the tomb or its relics.

The destruction of tombs and historical sites worldwide is an ongoing problem. In his book *"Hindu Temples - What Happened to Them"*, Sita Ram Goel included a partial list of more than 2000 mosques that were built over Hindu temple sites.

Muhammad, in some of his hadiths, prohibited memorial buildings and masjids over graves. (See: Bukhari, Janaiz, 69; Muslim, Janaiz, 31-32, Masajid 63; Abu Dawud, 76; Nasai, Janaiz, 295, 339, 299). The majority of Islamic scholars said: Building houses, tombs, domes, madrasas or masjids or arbors is makrooh, though it is not haram, on condition that they are not built to show arrogance or wealth. If they are built to show arrogance and wealth, it is haram. It is unlawful to build a tomb in a public graveyard. If the grave belonged to the property of the dead person, it is makrooh to build tomb over it (see: Abdurrahman al-Jaziri, al-Fiqh ala'l Madhahibi'l Arbaa, Cairo, I, 536).

Nevertheless, some Islamic scholars contradict this and said it was permissible to build tombs over the graves of sheikhs, scholars, rulers and wives and children of rulers.

Muhammad prohibited lighting candles on graves because money is wasted for them. It is makrooh to sit on and step on graves. (Muslim, Janaiz, 33; Tirmidhi, Janaiz, 56).

Because of this interpretation of the Quran, graves of any kind are forbidden by Wahabis. Bodies are buried in dirt within 24 hours, with no markers or monuments of any kind allowed, with no weeping or praying at gravesides, although this is often disregarded and at least a simple stone marker is set in place in order that no one accidently dig up a grave for some other purpose. Women are not permitted at graveyards. Guards are posted at the grave of Muhammad to insure that no one lingers there to pray. If anyone should appear to linger, the guards will move them away with a stern reminder to pray only to Allah. Yet, it is evident that Muhammad himself believed in going to graves and saying prayers over the deceased. Several examples are provided in the Quran and Hadiths.

The Hadith (traditional sayings and habits of the Prophet outside the Quran) also do not prohibit mourning, tears, or tombstones. Muhammad even spoke to the mountains in a form of prayer at a graveside. While Muhammad was at the graveside of his only son Ibrahim (born to the slave girl-he died at about 18 months old), Usman ibn Zayd started to cry. Muhammad urged him not to. Usman said, "Muhammad, I saw you crying too." Muhammad answered, "I have not commanded anyone against sadness, but only against raising your voice in grief." He was referring to the loud wailing of mourners, in the custom of the era.

While preparing the grave for Ibrahim, Muhammad, still weeping, placed a headstone at the site and said-

> 'Tombstones are neither good nor ill, but they help appease the living. Anything that man does, God wishes him to do well'. (Ibn-i Sa'd, Tabaqat v.1, p.131-144).

Muhammad's father died before he was born. His mother, Amina, died when he was six years old. They were on a journey to visit the grave of his father and on the return Amina suddenly became ill and died. She was buried by the Ethiopian slave umm-aiman (Barakah) as Muhammad looked on. The grave was marked with a circle of stones. As a grown man, he was able to visit her grave, and he wept for her. In recent times, even the simple circle of stones has been tossed aside and gasoline poured on her grave by Wahhabis. Locals usually manage to put the stones back in place, and so her grave can still be visited to this day.

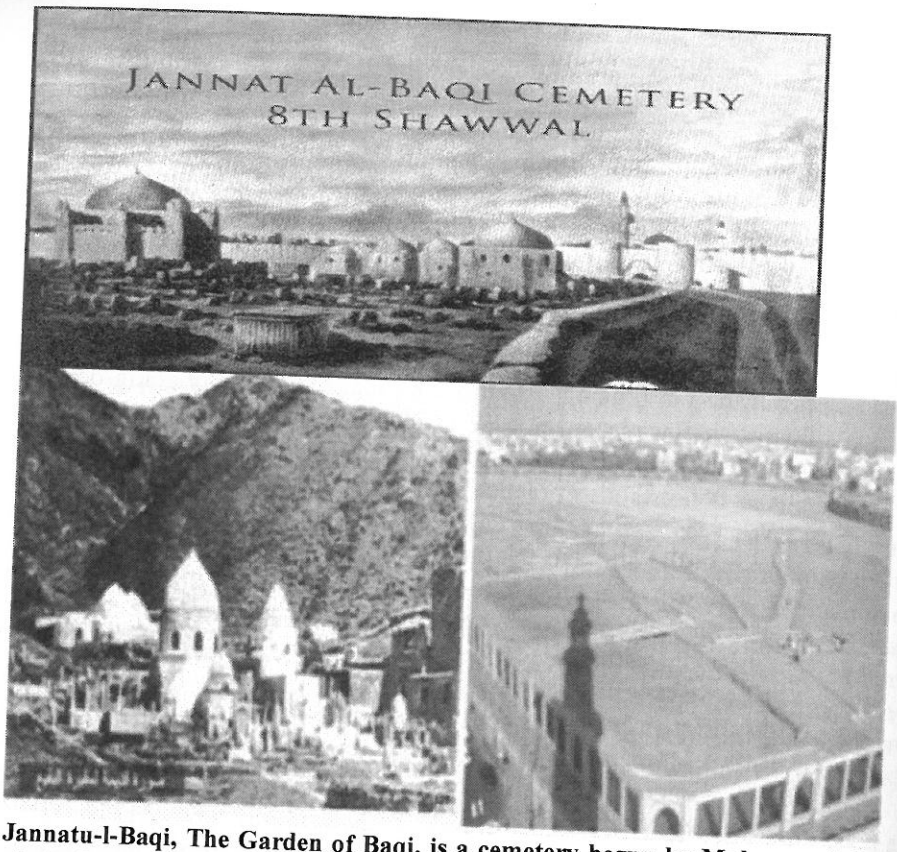
Maqbaratu-l-Baqi is a cemetery in Medina, Saudi Arabia. The cemetery held many of Muhammad's relatives and companions. Altogether, there were 7,000 burials at this site, including the wives, children, family, friends, and

companions of Muhammad. Traditions relate Muhammad issuing a prayer every time he passed it.

The cemetery is also known as Jannatu l-Baqi' "The Garden of Heaven" and Baqi'u- l-Qarqad "Orchard of the Boxthorn Trees." A Jewish graveyard, now destroyed, was once located behind Jannatu l-Baqi'. The demolitions by the Saudi family have focused on mosques, burial sites, homes and historical locations associated with Muhammad and many of the founding personalities of early Islamic history-

> 'The widespread demolition of gravesites, tombs, mausoleums, birthplaces, mosques or locations otherwise connected with the prophet Muhammad, his family and companions, pious individuals or important events in Islamic history after the Saudi conquest of the Hejaz was an attempt to eradicate non-orthodox practices that had become established in regional Islam during that time. The ongoing demolition of similar places until the present day may constitute the continued effort by Saudi authorities to safeguard Islamic monotheism against non-orthodox practices that are not recognized by Islam.
>
> What is certain is that Islam prohibits the deification of anything other than the god and this includes the attributing of divine characteristics (such as all-encompassing power or the control or knowledge of human destiny) to anyone or thing other than god, including prophets and saints.
>
> Controversy arises because, like any theological issues, there are wide differences in opinion concerning orthodoxy, and with what constitutes acceptable Islamic practices and what does not. This is further compounded by the countless interpretations of Islamic theology that can be present in places such as Mecca and Medina, where millions of Muslim visitors from diverse regions and backgrounds of the Islamic World can congregate in the same space at any given time.
>
> Furthermore, there exist within the accredited traditions of Muhammad (Sunnah) several injunctions prohibiting the visitation of sites and more specifically the erecting of structures over graves such as mausoleums and Mosques. It is according to these specific orders from the Prophetic authority of Muhammad that Wahhabi and other orthodox Muslims devise the rulings that permit the demolition referenced above.' [322]

Thus, regarding the seizing of Roza Bal tomb, its 'renovations' to make it appear Islamic, and driving people away from the tomb with threats of terrorism are all controlled acts being orchestrated from Saudi Arabia by Salafi-Wahab fundamentalists who finance all mosques around the world, who support destruction or complete alteration of all non-Islamic sites worldwide.



Jannatu-l-Baqi, The Garden of Baqi, is a cemetery begun by Muhammad. Left photo, before it was destroyed by the Saudi Wahabi family in 1925, it contained more than 7,000 graves, many marked by elaborate structures. King Ibn Saud destroyed the graves of Muhammad's wife, children, grandfather, and other friends, companions, and family members. Right, as it looks today. In the Wahabi interpretation of Islam, the veneration of tombs and places thought to possess supernatural powers was an offense against tawhid (the concept of monotheism). In 2007, according to the The Independent, a pamphlet, published by the Saudi Ministry of Islamic Affairs and endorsed by the grand mufti of Saudi Arabia, stated that "the green dome shall be demolished and the three graves flattened in the Prophet's Masjid."

CAN ROZA BAL BE SAVED?

The first solution is simple and straightforward. Demand that the Waqf relinquish the tomb on the basis that it was not an Islamic site to begin with. Control should be passed to the Government. The Cultural Heritage Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 (Act No. VII of 1904) was promulgated

for protection of ancient India sites. This Act provided effective preservation and authority over monuments, particularly those under the custody of individual or private ownership. As this Act has not been repealed, it is deemed to be in force. The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972 (No. 52 of 1972) is the latest Act enacted on 9th September 1972 for effective control over the moveable cultural property consisting of antiquities and art treasures. The Act is to regulate the export trade in antiquities and art treasures, to provide for the prevention of smuggling of, and fraudulent dealings in, antiquities, to provide for the compulsory acquisition of antiquities and art treasures for preservation in public places and to provide for certain other matters connected therewith or incidental or ancillary thereto.

An alternative solution lies with the courts and the judicial system of India. I sought legal advice in India, and was assured this was a proper legal case, but I lacked the funds to initiate a lengthy court battle that might take several years. I was a foreigner on a limited visa that could be terminated at any moment on the whim of one party or another. I might never be permitted to remain long enough to conclude a court case, especially something high-profile that might lead to more sectarian violence.

I asked the Islamic Research Foundation (IRF) (& other Islamic Scholars & authentic books about Sharia) for their guidelines regarding DNA. They have established that opening the grave, even relocating the deceased or obtaining DNA is permissible in Islam under quite a few broad circumstances-

1. When the dead body has been buried in usurped land and the owner of the land is not willing to let it remain there.

2. When the Kafan (shroud) of the dead body or any other thing buried with it had been usurped and the owner of the thing in question is not willing to let it remain in the grave. (This would apply to burying a Muslim in the non-Muslim grave, where it does not belong. A tomb built 2,000 years ago cannot be an Islamic tomb, nor can anyone in such a tomb be converted posthumously).

3. When digging up the grave does not amount to disrespect of the dead person, and it appears that he was buried without Ghusl (washing) or Kafan, or the Ghusl was performed in an improper way, or he was not given Kafan according to religious rules, or was not laid out in a grave facing the Qibla (direction of the Kabbah).

4. When it is necessary to inspect the body of the dead person to establish a right that is more important than exhumation (the claims of the families, the requests for DNA, the determination of the actual historical person of Yuz Asaf are all rights of the claimants).

5. When the dead body of a Muslim has been buried at a place that is against sanctity, as in the graveyard of a non-Muslim or at a place of garbage. (This is

precisely why the grave of Sayed Nasiruddin Rizvi has to be removed from Roza Bal-he was buried in the place of a non-Muslim).

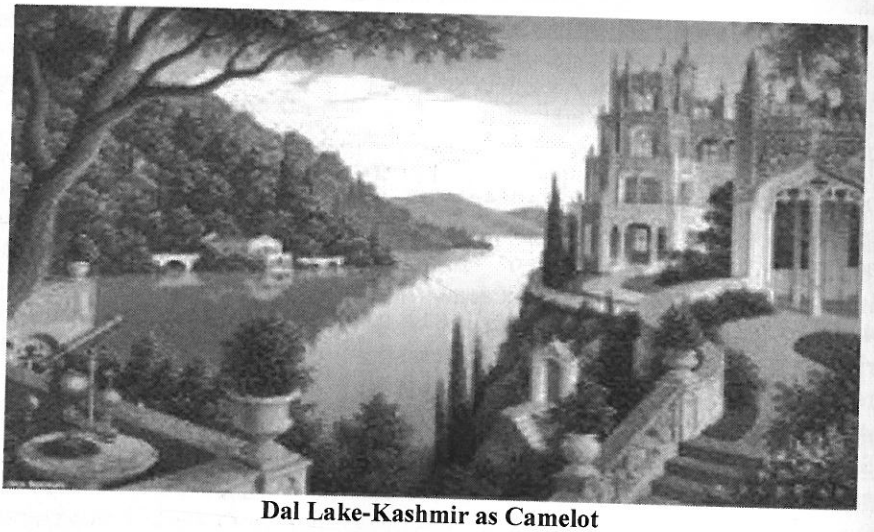
6. When the grave is dug up for a legal purpose that is more important than exhumation. For example, when it is proposed to take out a living child from the womb of a buried woman, or to prove the paternity of a child for legal inheritance. (This could apply to determining ancestry).

7. When it is feared that a wild beast will would tear up the corpse or it will be carried away by flood or exhumed by the enemy.

8. When the deceased has willed that his body be transferred to sacred places before burial, and it was intentionally or forgetfully buried elsewhere, then the body can be exhumed, providing that doing so does not result in any disrespect to the deceased.



Roza Bal tomb as it looks today. Photo by Ken Lee.



Dal Lake-Kashmir as Camelot

SOLUTIONS-PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER

To protect the fate of Roza Bal, Kashmiris should consider the following-

- It seems apparent that the religion and cultural identity of Yuz Asaf must take precedence. It has been historically established that Roza Bal was built 2000 years ago for a Christian who had Hebrew affiliations. The grave's east-west alignment, the artifacts, carved wooden doors, the cross and sword, documents, and other relics clearly prove this, further eliminating any possibility that Muslims have legal precedence over the tomb. They do not.
- The original tomb was painted blue and white. This is very significant. Colors on the Tallit (prayer shawl) of all Hebrew priests were royal blue. A very specific shade of blue was used and this color was defined in the Torah. This was the exact shade of blue that was applied to Roza Bal tomb. It was there for a specific Biblical requirement for both Christians and Jews.
- The orientation of the tomb, as well as the original grave in the cellar, is situated in the traditional east-west Hebrew alignment. The other grave, however, is of a well-documented Muslim, Syed-Nasir-ud-Din, a simple chowkidar, who became regarded as a Sufi saint. He devotedly cleaned the tomb for many years. He was buried in the traditional north-south alignment of Muslims. Had he been a Buddhist or a Hindu, he would have been cremated, not buried.

I suggested to the Government of India that the entire Hari Parbat Fort be converted to a Museum-Conference Center. It could hold the remains of Yuz Asaf, and all of his artifacts in a museum setting that could include a Conference center for visiting international scholars. The Fort would be recognized worldwide as a symbol for Kashmir, much like an Eiffel Tower or Gates of India. This would serve as a huge draw for tourism to Kashmir. Everyone would benefit and Kashmir would thrive by preserving the memory and artifacts of Yuz Asaph. Surprisingly, it was in Murree, Pakistan that this idea was most widely accepted as a solution for the grave of Mother Mary. Everyone wanted to move the grave to protect any remains and save relics in a museum setting for tourists.

The residents of Murree acknowledge that Hazrat (Holy) Mariam (Mari) is in all probability buried on Pindi Point, the Queen's Mountain. They take immense pride in this fact, and were willing to make every effort to move her grave to a safer place and make it available for tourism and pilgrims. The location is now owned by Pakistan TV, and any tourism or increase of traffic on their private property is not feasible. Moving her remains, assuming anything could be found, is a win-win for all.

Roza Bal can be saved. Archaeologists should be allowed unlimited access to the graves, the relics, and DNA testing to get to the truth.

- No one can be converted posthumously, especially not Yuz Asaf. When Native American remains are unexpectedly recovered in America, they are handled with respect to Native American traditions, not European traditions.

After validation and DNA testing, they are turned over to Native Americans for reburial according to their own customs, similar to the religious laws in effect in Israel.

- The most compelling reason to rescue Roza Bal is the very real danger of destruction by zealots and fundamentalist who are fed these ideas by Saudi Salafi-Wahab clerics.

Any Waqf or Board of Directors or private individual who recently claimed control of Roza Bal can be challenged through the courts. The tomb has changed hands several times in recent years. No one has a long standing claim. The disputes over Roza Bal can be settled by the High Court of India (in New Delhi), or simply with a handshake at the local level.

- I would encourage and facilitate local Hindu(Pandit) and Muslim Kashmiris, also descendants of Guru Nanak, Mizra Ghulam Ahmad, and Fatima all to become a part of the National Geographic Genome Project, and have their DNA tested to see who may be related to Yuz Asaf.

I feel the urgent need to protect Roza Bal tomb until the truth is known.

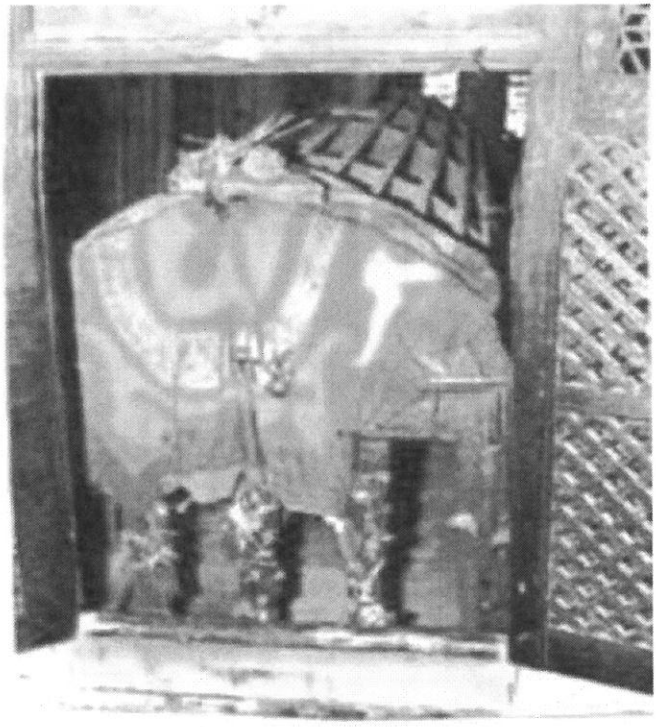
Like Bashrat Shaheen, I worry about its demise and destruction.

Like Bashrat Shaheen, I want to know if Yuz Asaf is Jesus.

Like Bashrat Shaheen, I cannot stand by and watch Kashmir's culture and history destroyed. Rumi said-

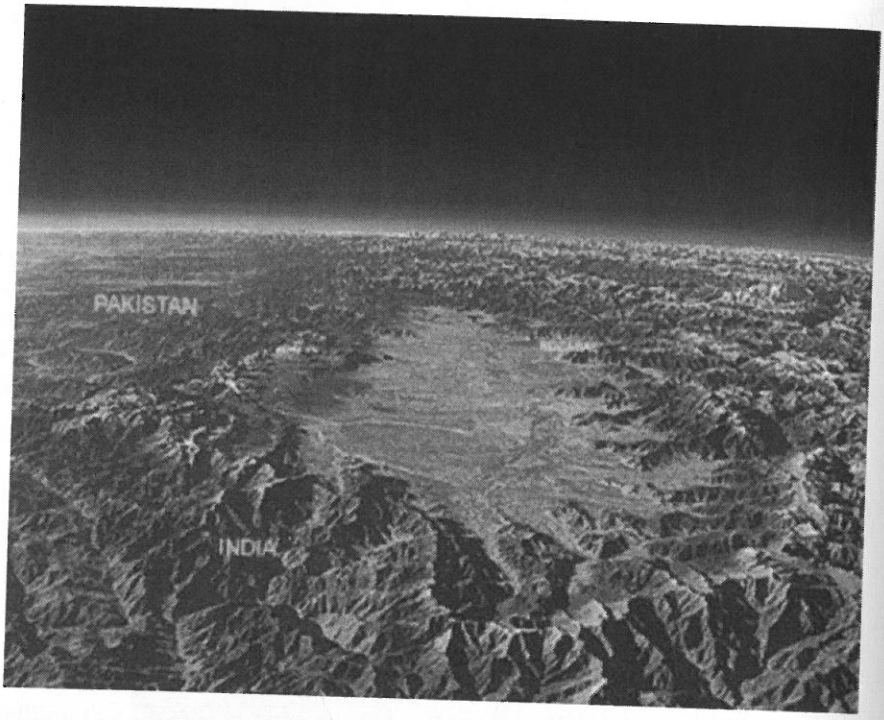
'When dust rises to Heaven, it is still dust.
When a jewel falls into the dust, it is still a jewel.'

Roza Bal is a jewel that has fallen into the dust. Kashmiris only have to pick it up and polish it, and it will shine for them and reward them beyond their expectations. I believe something important remains to be discovered here, something that will change the destiny of Kashmir and the world forever.

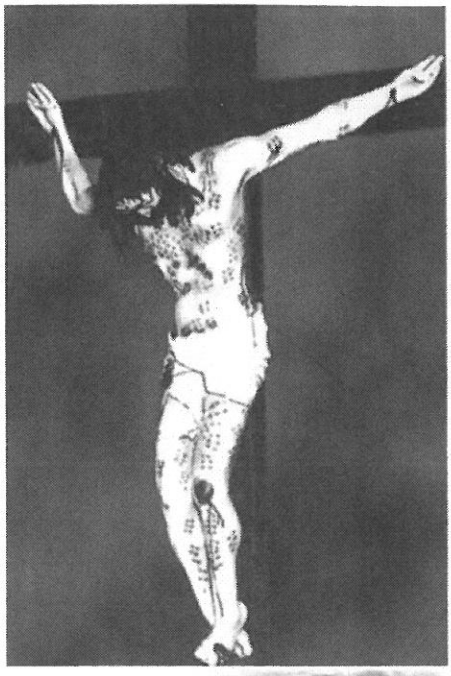


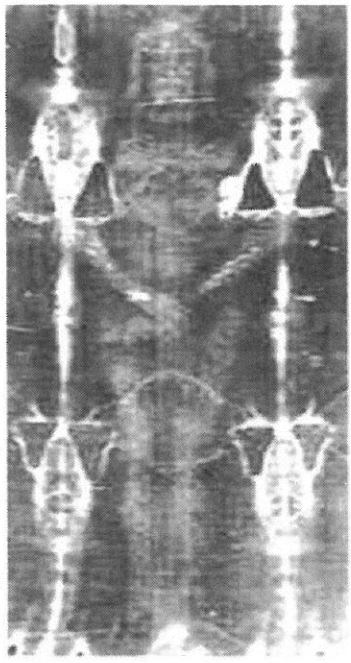
The sarcophagus inside Roza Bal tomb; The cloth is deliberately draped to hide the wood carvings that show clearly this is no Islamic sarcophagus.

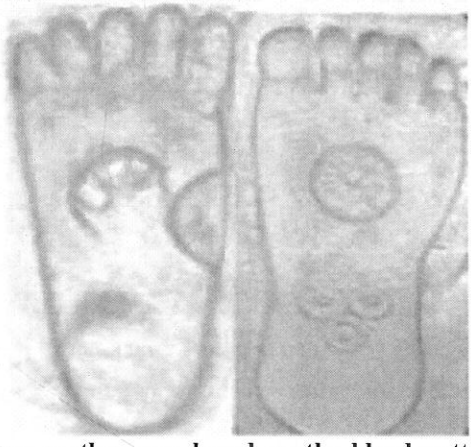
The ancient sarcophagus once held the Rod of Moses. This sarcophagus and the Rod have been removed.



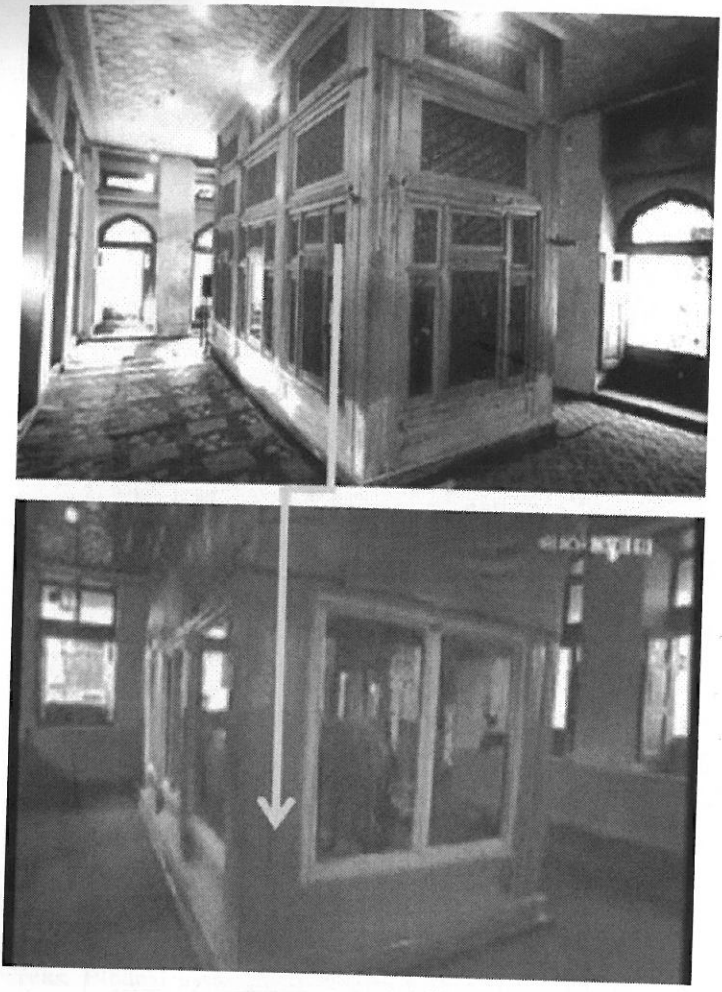
Kashmir Valley from Space-85 miles long X 25 miles wide. Fought over by India, Pakistan and China, a major river, the Jhelum (Vitasta) runs through the Valley. The ancient Greeks called it the Hydaspes. The distance from here to Jerusalem is 420 miles. With a good horse, the journey could be made in a few weeks. Biblical associations found in this area include; Noah.-Joseph-Mary-Aaron-Moses-Jesus-King David and his son- Bibi Injeel (Kashgar) - Apostle Thomas - Jesus' Donkey- The Rod, the crucifixion wounds carved in stone, Solomon Temple- Aish Muqam- Martand-and possibly Abraham and Sarah.







Left-position of Jesus on the cross based on the blood patterns on Shroud of Turin. Two feet were held together with one nail. The blood stains on the Shroud exactly match)the scarred feet carved in the rock found at Roza Bal tomb, a distance of 3680 miles (from Rome to Kashmir) across a dozen countries. The Buddha sacred feet (on right) began appearing in the First Century.



Inside the tomb, before and after recent renovations. The original blue color (kachol) was significant. The Bible mentions the shade of blue to be used by Hebrews, called tekhelet, an indigo blue (Exodus 25;4 and Numbers 15;38). After tearing out the ancient wood and removing the artifacts, the area was enclosed with glass windows. The arrow shows location of the carved feet, now covered from public view, where the author spent a memorable Christmas.

CHRISTMAS AT THE TOMB



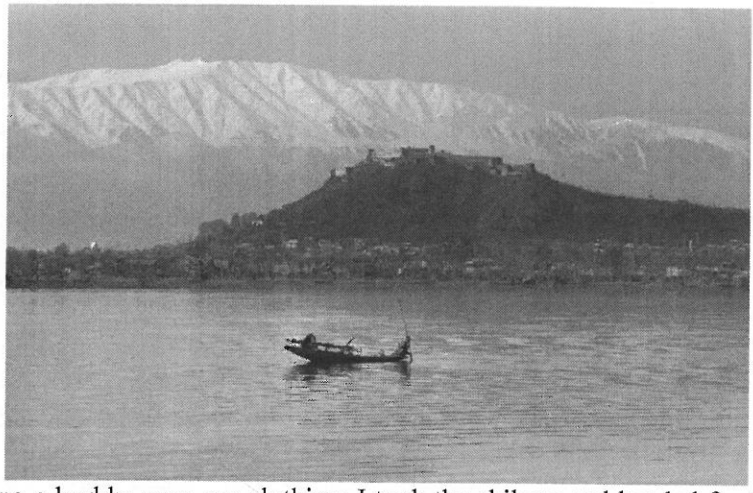
Christmas day at Roza Bal tomb. Soldiers on the streets of Srinagar near the tomb, a daily scene for 30 years. Photo courtesy The Greater Kashmir Times.

Christmas was approaching, just another unremarkable day of terror in Kashmir. Militancy was at its peak and atrocities were on the rise; bombings, throwing acid in the faces of unveiled school girls, attacks on busloads of people, daily 'strikes' that demanded total shutdown of all businesses were crippling the economy. It was impossible to live normally. Just trying to get a little rice could become a life or death event. Women would compete with stray cows for the weeds growing on roadsides, to serve as vegetables for their family rather than risk going to a merchant's stall to buy food, assuming the merchant could obtain any food to sell that day. Shops stayed closed for personal safety. If they opened, they would be attacked on orders from Syed Ali Shah Geelani and his cohorts- separatists from Jammu and Kashmir who were well-funded by Pakistan. He was previously a member of Jamaat-e-Islami Kashmir but later on founded his own party by the name of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat. They advocate separating Kashmir from India and uniting it with Pakistan. Because of this, a strong black market exists in Kashmir, doing business out of the public eye.

Food, electric power and necessities were scarce. India and Pakistan were rattling their nuclear swords, a hair's breadth away from another full-out war. Many times a day the F-16's flew low overhead, rattling windows as they buzzed the nearby Pakistan border. It was never prudent to have an opinion or

be too visible. Americans were being blamed for everything, even crop failures. My landlord and guide Bashir warned me to keep my burkha on at all times. I had to get through Army checkpoints and body searches everywhere, even at the post office or to ride a bus. There were constant border skirmishes that threatened my trips to the mountains to old shrines and graves. I kept notes on the margins of maps, made when the scant electricity remained on for an hour or so late at night, but these notes and maps were later confiscated by border guards who could not read English. The thought of being so close to a possible tomb of Jesus at Christmas seemed wonderful. I was determined to spend this Christmas with Yuz Asaf inside Roza Bal, but no one could know about this lest it appear too 'religious.' I lived on a houseboat on an island in the middle of Nagin Lake, at the lower end of Dal Lake. Nagin is the name for the beautiful trees that once surrounded the lake. An island was a safe place to be during long stays in violence-ridden Srinagar.

I made my plans quietly, without telling anyone. On Christmas morning, trying not to rouse suspicion or worry, I casually announced that I was going to take the bus to town to look for fabrics.



Wearing a burkha over my clothing, I took the shikara and headed for the far shore. In spite of the cold rolling off the Himalayas, there was just a thin skim of ice on the lake and the oar broke through easily. The shikara glided to the distant shore. I could board the local bus from there and get into town.

I had layers of warm clothing under my burkha, and I was acclimated to the cold and the higher altitudes. The brisk air felt good.

Contrary to the belief that a burqa offers anonymity, it does nothing of the kind. I was covered head to toe under this huge, billowing, ugly tent, feeling safe and invisible, but everyone invariably said a cheery "Hi Miss Sue" when I passed by.

My burqa was black, not a lustrous high fashion New York Fifth Avenue silky-lacy designer black, but more like faded old cotton-polyester black, an all-in-one multi-purpose utility garment that I had made to order in Peshawar. It was less like clothing and more like a dreary, frayed, worn out camping-survival tent hanging on the body. Hidden pockets held necessities.... my passport, bandages, Neosporin (first-aid crème) a nail file, matches. A corner of my scarf (dupatta) was tied up to hold a 'trail mix' assortment of dried fruit and nuts like the one carried by ancient Greek and Roman armies-high energy raw foods; dried fruits, seeds, nuts, dates, and raisins that can travel well and not need cooking, loaded with vitamins and high radicals to keep a body full of energy. I learned this from local mountain women who often have a small handful tied into the corner of their dupattas to nibble on for energy during the day. I also learned not to drink liquids all day because there were no bath-rooms, and men were always on the streets and the transports. Even finding a few trees or shrubs along the side of the road to relieve oneself was not a safe idea for women. We had to cope any way we could, which often meant going hours without a sip of water or a place to relieve oneself.

My burkha had a special pocket for hiding rupees. That pocket was my real treasure, my little 'Asian ATM machine'.

Money transfers were a hassle. There were no ATM machines on every street corner or even in the entire State of Kashmir at that time, due to militancy and uncertain banking regulations in a place hovering on the brink of war over possession of the land. I flew down to Delhi and waited for days to get enough funds transferred from my pension in America to last me just a month or two. Having just barely enough to live on month to month, I had the distinction of being considered poor in most Third World countries.

I walked the rubble-strewn paths to Roza Bal, passing the occasional cow lounging in the middle of the road contentedly chewing cardboard. Boarded-up buildings and crumbling bombed-out shops lined the streets. It was a cheerless, chaotic, depressing city. In outlook and ideologies, none could be further apart than Hindus and Muslims. This fight is an ancient one, passed down for generations and carried to the far corners of the world.

Every day I was more frightened in Kashmir than anywhere else on earth. Violence and chaos here were in the extreme. Daily strikes (shut downs) kept the mood at a feverish pitch. Cross border terrorism, mass murders and 'disappearances' kept life on the nail-biting edge.

Soldiers were everywhere. Some were at their posts in the sandbagged bunkers, huddled in the cold but alert, poised and ready at their machine guns. They knew me because I went to the tomb several times a week to dust and clean. Most locals saw nothing unusual in the idea this could be my grandfather. They respected my caring for his tomb. Usually I went to the tomb because it was a chance to be alone in a safe quiet place. Visitors rarely came here. The tomb doors were always left unlocked in those days and no one paid

attention to me. I tried to never draw attention to myself, but to slip quietly by. Everyone usually ignored me. If a soldier signaled from his post that he needed cigarettes, I brought them from a local shop and gave them as gifts. Otherwise I was not worth a second glance. I liked it that way.

Christians in Srinagar Today

What happens in Afghanistan has quite an impact on India- and spills over into Kashmir. This becomes cross-border terrorism. The Soviet war in Afghanistan lasted nine years from December 1979 to February 1989. Hundreds of thousands of Afghans lost their lives- many fled the country to Pakistan. Then the civil war began with the Taliban. After the 9-11 attacks in the USA, Americans came to Afghanistan to fight the 'War on Terror'. Three decades of war made Afghanistan and Pakistan two of the world's most unstable and dangerous countries. Terrorist groups such as the Haqqani Network and Hezbi Islami are actively involved in a worldwide Al Quaida-Taliban-led insurgency, which includes hundreds of assassinations and suicide attacks yearly. In October 2001, about 2 PM, militants belonging to Jaish-e-Mohammed carried out an attack on the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislative Assembly complex in Srinagar using a car bomb and three fidayeen suicide bombers. 38 people and three fidayeen were killed in this attack. 40 local civilians were seriously wounded. I was one block away when this happened, and I was completely terrified and saddened for all of Kashmir. Osama bin Laden was being sheltered in Kashmir by militant groups. I sometimes heard rumors about his nearby presence, another very good reason why I did not want to draw attention to myself. There were sensible limits to just how long and how far I could get by as a 'holy' person here. Although I was reasonably safe with my Pashtun-Shia friends (most were Taliban sympathizers) bin Laden encouraged attacks on all westerners and Americans in the region. He was later killed in Abbottabad, on the Pakistan side of Kashmir, not that far from where I lived. I loved this area. The residents were wonderful, interesting people- top in their professions- who have held esteemed positions worldwide. Some of the best hi-tech medical and arts schools are here. At one time I considered making this my permanent home. The drive to Abbottabad is very scenic. The sprawling city is filled with superb schools and colleges- English is widely spoken. The wonderful old churches were built by the British a hundred years ago- the sound of church bells are still heard here. They are among the area's favorite tourist attractions. The Karakoram Highway, one of the paths of the ancient Silk Road, passes through the city-eventually reaching Khunjerab Pass. The Karakoram Highway is a major attraction itself for its views. The Karakoram, Himalayas and Hindu Kush ranges can be reached from Abbottabad. In October 2005 Abbottabad was devastated by the Kashmir earthquake, a result of the unstable Himalayas thrusts upward. Although most of Abbottabad survived,

many older buildings were destroyed or severely damaged. The toll on human suffering was staggering-100,000 deaths, millions injured and rendered homeless.

On 25 January 2011, Indonesian terrorist Umar Patek- who was wanted in 2002 Bali bombings as well as a series of 2000 church bombings- was arrested in Abbottabad. While the civilian death toll in Afghanistan was estimated to be 1,300 in 2001, the civilian death toll in Kashmir (India side) was ten times more than that, exceeding 120,000 civilian deaths during the same time. Men, women, and children are still being recovered from mass graves. Some analysts have suggested that the number of Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir is close to 600,000 although estimates vary and the Indian government refuses to release official figures. The streets are lined with soldiers. Fights and shootouts often begin with children and young teens throwing stones at soldiers. According to the United Nations, insurgents are responsible for 80% of civilian casualties in Kashmir, Afghanistan and Pakistan from 2001 to 2012. They kill one another faster than any Army can kill them.

By 2001-2002, there were just a dozen or so Indo-Christian families left in all of Srinagar. Some Christians were members of the Army, the jawans, although most jawans were Hindu and Sikh. [323] *Christians were at "their" Church on the other side of town for Christmas. Many Christian denominations have missionaries in India. Methodists, Mormons, Protestants, Roman Catholics, yet Christians are less than 0.02% of the total Kashmir population. They are forbidden to speak about their faith in ways that might suggest they were engaging in 'missionary' style conversion of others.*

Just before Christmas, Christians in Srinagar were very scared, in a state of panic, fearful of their security, uncertain of the future, uncertain of their jobs. The Rev. Chander Mani Khanna, pastor of All Saints Church in Srinagar, was arrested on charges of hurting religious sentiments of Muslims after several Muslim youths tried to leave Islam. In May, 2013 two South Koreans were distributing Bibles and other Christian materials in Srinagar to people passing by who could freely take them or not. When a mob gathered and beat up the two Christians, police arrived to arrest the two who are now in a safe place receiving medical care. Sajan George, president of the Global Council of Indian Christians (GCIC) said, "it is very common in India to encounter foreigners wearing saffron-colored clothes," which symbolizes Hinduism, "distributing the Bhagavad Gita," the Hindu Sacred Book," at train stations. They enjoy full religious freedom, as enshrined in our Constitution, and no policeman will arrest them, ever."[324]

By contrast, in Jammu and Kashmir, Islamic militants will often go after foreign Christians and missionaries. In January, 2013, a group of foreign tourists was almost lynched after the publication of a few posts on Facebook.

Most of the best Muslim leaders of Jammu and Kashmir got their educations by attending Church run schools. However, one of the finest of these schools, operated by the Church of North India for the past 150 years, was recently burned down by an angry mob. The whole three-story structure with 26 classrooms, library, and computer labs burnt to the ground. (Asia News, 15 September 2010). The school educated 500 Muslim youths every year, and many of these youths were seeking a way out of Islam. They speak freely about their disillusionment with Islam and radicalism, and their interest in Christianity, the religion most cited and respected even in the Quran. It was not so unusual to ask to be baptized into the Christian faith.

Ministers and priests worldwide have reported similar experiences, citing that many Muslims secretly make inquiries but are terrified of their own Muslim community to make the next step. On this occasion, it nearly cost the Reverend Khanna and his Srinagar congregation their lives.

After he was released on bail, the pastor was never able to return to his church for fear of the repercussions. At the same time, a sharia (Islamic law) court in Srinagar summoned the Rev. Jim Borst, a Dutch Catholic missionary, to appear on charges of proselytizing and "forced conversions." Borst runs two schools in Baramulla and Srinagar that are said to have aroused jealousy in local Muslims. Sentiment against Christians was evident when Muslim members of the Kashmir Bar Association kept disrupting the court proceedings. Their behavior tested the patience of the judge, who remarked, 'Do you want me to hang him? (the minister) This appears in the fact-finding report, entitled "Dealing with Islamic Groups in Kashmir on Christian Persecution."[325]

There were never any forced conversions. "Forced conversions" is a pretext, a deliberate use of language that will anger and arouse local sentiments against the Christians. [326]

No Christians risk coming to Roza Bal for Christmas. This is the irony of Roza Bal tomb. They turn their backs in disbelief. It is not 'their' Jesus here because their Jesus is in Heaven. I was often reminded that I must not come here to 'worship'. That was forbidden. If I was seen praying here, I could be killed. And so I was always coming to remove twigs, to dust and sweep.

I took my shoes off at the tomb door. The shutters on the barred windows were open. I would have to be very very quiet to remain undetected by people walking outside past the open windows. Although it was morning, it was cloudy and cold. The whole atmosphere was dark and gloomy. I took a candle from my pocket, lit it, and stuck it on the stone floor where no one passing by could glance in the open windows and notice. I snuggled down on the floor, pulled my burqa around me for warmth and leaned against the cool hard glass wall; the stone with crucifixion wounds was on the other side of the glass, just inches away from where I leaned my face. The sword in the stone had been

removed, I knew not where it was now. There once was a beautiful ancient carved wooden grill instead of glass, but, with no thought for its value as an antiquity, it was cut up and sold to tourists a few years ago. Author Holger Kersten bought a piece as a souvenir. He said it is on his desk in Germany, a special memento that he cherishes. My treasure is a few pebbles I took from the dirt around Roza Bal tomb. I cherish those few little pebbles to this day.

It's been three months since the 9-11 attacks in New York. Tensions were high around the world. Kashmir had become a Warsaw Ghetto, a tinderbox about to explode into full-out war, a somber and dangerous place devoid of warmth or public displays of greetings and friendships. Soldiers outnumbered civilians on the streets. Mujahideen and Jihadiis drifted in and out, targeting soldiers who, in response, had very shaky trigger fingers. Even a child with a stone, or a bewildered foreign blonde could be perceived as an imminent threat.

The world changed forever after 9-11. I glimpsed the western news announcers on the TV's in store windows. They were wearing religious crosses that got bigger and bolder with every broadcast. Before 9-11 this was 'politically incorrect' and generally never worn in public unless you were a nun. After 9-11 religious identity was displayed openly with defiance and pride.

Someone once asked me, in a very serious and somber tone, "What prophet do you follow?" The question was a shock. I never thought about the world in such narrow terms-until *after* 9-11. The answer would identify everything they needed to know about me, and the imaginary lines were then drawn in the sand. You stood on one side or the other. You were 'with them' or 'against them' in war and in peace. The prophet you followed determined everything else.

Young men were also compelled to align themselves with a prophet. Sadly, their choices were limited to either a bulletproof vest or a suicide vest.

My family also experienced religious intolerance and persecution. I was raised in a liberal Christian (Episcopalian) family. This began in 1256 when the Anglicans broke away from the Catholic Vatican Christians in a movement called the Reformation.

Huguenots criticized the doctrine and policies of the Catholic Church. They believed that the rituals, images, saints, pilgrimages, prayers, and hierarchy of the Catholic Church did not help anyone toward redemption. They saw Christianity as something to be expressed as a life of simple faith in God. The French Catholics' retaliation against them culminated with the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre in 1572, when 30,000 Protestants (Huguenots) were killed. Many survivors, including some of my ancestors, fled to other countries. The Des Marets fled from France to nearby Zeeland in the Dutch Netherlands and became 'Dutch' Huguenots although they retained their French language and cultural identities. Fifty-four years later they contributed

to the purchase of New Netherlands (New York and Manhattan Island) in 1626 through agent Peter Minuit, also a Walloon.

Marie Sohier (Americanized to Sawyer) was French Huguenot, born in France, married to David Des Marets (Americanized to Demarest or another of a dozen spelling variations). According to the genealogy that Laurence Gardner once prepared for me in Kashmir, I am the 12th generation descended from them. This was the bloodline of the Knights of the First Crusade and the First Kings of Jerusalem. Baldwin 1 of Edessa was Baldwin of Boulogne, brother of Godfrey of Bouillon. The families of Boulogne and Marets were related through marriages.

This line rescued the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and rebuilt it. The knights and saints from this branch of the family became the legends of Arthurian lore. Popular authors including Louis Martin (1886)- Donovan Joyce (1973)- Andreas Faber-Kaiser (1977)- Barbara Thiering (1992)- Margaret Starbird (1993)- Laurence Gardner (1996)- Dan Brown (2003) and many more connected this bloodline (thus my ancestors) to Jesus and the Desposyni, which brought me full circle to Kashmir in search of DNA evidence.

I didn't know who was underneath me in the ground below this tomb. I knew the grave was here before Islam was here. I knew some Directors once told me there was a stone shelf behind a rock wall where the real bone remains rested. That seemed perfectly logical for a Hebrew burial. This could be Yuz Asaf or Jesus, or by some ironic twist of mistaken identity, this could be the tomb of a lowly chowkidar, someone who cleaned the tomb and developed an attachment to Yuz Asaf. This could be one of my ancient grandfathers. Or not. We are all guessing, making assumptions based on relics and rumors. We need more. We owe it to the ancestors to get their stories straight.

I thought about the DNA of God Project often at this tomb. On this day Yuz Asaf and I would celebrate this Christmas together, like a family.

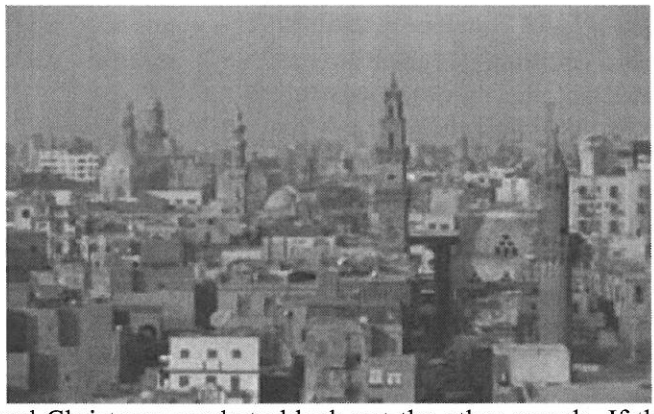
Grandmother believed that thoughts and emotions carried across time and space. She spoke to the dead as though they were right beside her, as though death and absence was no barrier at all, as though our loved ones still retained a connection with us in forms we could neither see nor understand.

I told this grandfather about my family and the Crusades, and about 9-11, space travel, DNA, the fate of Mother Mary's tomb in nearby Murree, Pakistan, and the popular theories about Jesus and Magdalene, Jesus and Pilate, Jesus and Christmas. I told him about the fabulous Christmas lights in New York City, and the priests and the probable Ark of the Covenant in Axum, Ethiopia. I rambled on in silent thoughts and quiet whispers about anything that came to mind, as though we were side by side after a long absence, catching up on news, just like my grandmother had done.

I quietly sang, or rather hummed Christmas songs to Yuz Asaf that my family would be singing on the other side of the world, and I said the prayers they would be saying. I recited *The Lord's Prayer* and the *23rd Psalm* over and over because I remembered them best.

'Thy Rod and Staff shall comfort me…' 'Thy rod and staff….' …'The Rod…' I could not get the Rod out of my mind, and the implications that it held for mankind.

I listened to the adhan outside blasting out calls to prayer from the pumped-up 'mega-speakers on steroids' perched atop every minaret. Five times a day this sound boomed over the city, each minaret competing with others to be loudest heard. It was not a pleasing sound. It was like menacing thunder angrily rolling across the valley, shaking rocks from the mountains, disturbing sleeping children and dying elders, demanding that Muslims hear and obey. Even local Muslims complained that this was too much to endure. F-16's buzzing the nearby border with Pakistan rattled windows and nerves with every screaming swoop they made through town.



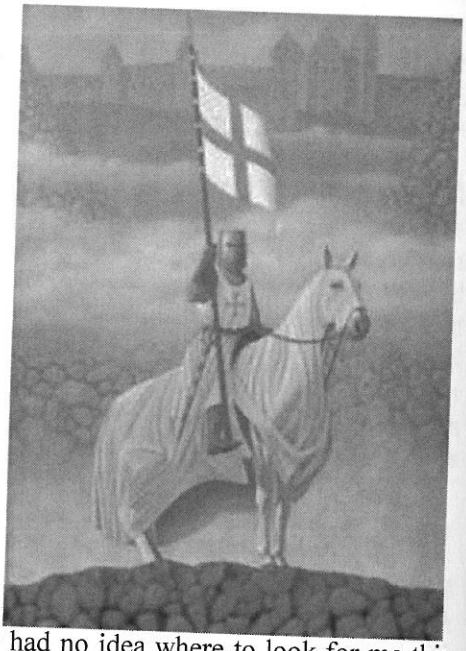
I hummed Christmas carols to block out the other sounds. If those mega-phones could broadcast Christmas songs, or the sounds of beautiful church bells like those still heard in Abbottabad- it might improve the Valley. It might feel like peace in the Valley once again.

My ancestors fought Muslim invaders at the Battle of Tours in 739. This decisive battle changed the history of the world by preventing further Muslim incursions deeper into Europe.

The grandsons from that first French battle with Islam knew the stories passed down from their grandfathers just 350 years earlier. Their great grandsons went marching to battle again, this time to save the Holy Lands and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher from imminent Muslim destruction. And again they succeeded. Another nine hundred years have passed since those battles and now another tomb of Jesus is under threat. It's the same war today, the same enemies, conflicts of ideologies and 'clash of civilizations'. The

same family bloodline again stands at the threshold to protect the tomb and the faith of Jesus.

There are times when everyone feels the need for a crusader, and on that Christmas day I certainly did. Could this be the first time in history that Christmas songs were *ever* heard inside Roza Bal? People once came from afar, from high and low walks of life to visit the tomb of Yuz Asaf, long before the arrival of Islam. What did they know then that has been lost to us now? Whose tomb did they think they were visiting? Was this a prophet named Yuz Asaf, the holy prophet Issa- Jesus from the Bible?
Or perhaps this *was* a simple chowkidar. But why would they have visited such a lowly person? That didn't make sense. I have a hunch that much more evidence existed in ancient times- much has been stolen or deliberately desecrated by religious zealots of one ilk or another.



The next crusaders will be men of science, their armor will be white lab coats; their weapons will be test tubes and computers.

I was cold and tired when my candle burned out, and it was now dusk outside, the time when a woman could not travel safely.
I thought about staying all night curled up asleep on the floor.

I felt a personal bond with Yuz Asaf. I made a commitment to help him. That was the Christmas gift from me to him. My Christmas wish was to know the truth before I too am laid to rest somewhere on this earth.
I had already caused my Kashmiri family worry at my lateness, and they had no idea where to look for me this evening; Prison? Jail? The morgue? A mass grave? A dark alley in a pool of blood? It was hard for me to leave but I put my shoes on and entered the dusky cold outside, waving to the soldiers to assure them as I passed by.

Barack Obama, US President said-

> 'Hope in the face of difficulty. Hope in the face of uncertainty. The audacity of hope! In the end, that is God's greatest gift to us, the bedrock of this nation. A belief in things not seen. A belief that there are better days ahead.'

THE COLLAPSE

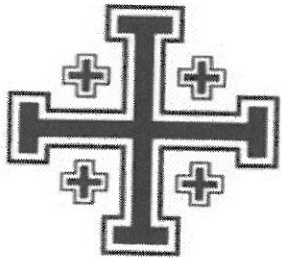
I put all of my time, money, and energy into carefully helping both Pakistan and Kashmir politicians and religious leaders become receptive to the idea of DNA testing for the graves of both Yuz Asaf and Mother Mary. I traveled between the two countries coordinating plans and trying to find help with financing. I wrote letters to National Geographic, Oxford University and other Institutions worldwide hoping for their interest and expertise. But no one would make a commitment.

Soon after Christmas, permission was finally granted from the Chief Minister's office for me to go ahead with my Roza Bal Project and to obtain DNA from Roza Bal. All the scientific work would be done by local professors from Kashmir University. I only had to pay for the laborers who would open and close the grave sites. However, a few days before excavations, someone local, due to misunderstandings over baksheesh and for his own personal ego and religious agenda, leaked the news to the press in a mocking and false way. I was accused of desecrating sacred Muslim tombs, of stealing artifacts and digging up DNA with a spoon, of planting false evidence. This caused a huge public outcry. Under threats of violence, I had to shut down the project. I acquired the nickname "Indiana Sue." It was devastating. I hung my head in shame every time I walked through town.

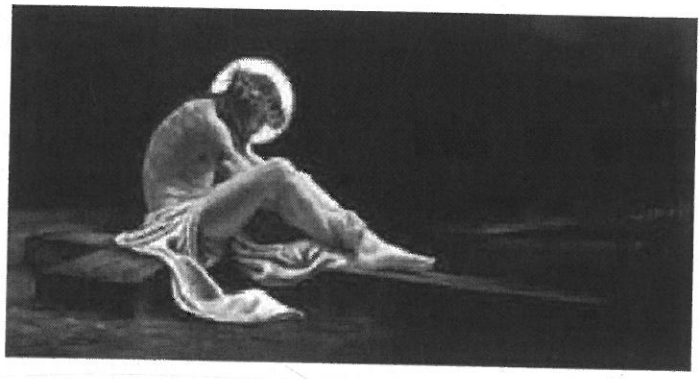
This also endangered me and Kashmiris who helped me. The damage was done to the public image of the DNA Project and it would last for years. My hopes were crushed. No burkha was dark enough or big enough to hide me from this public failure, ridicule, and the shame I now felt.

I did not have the protection in Kashmir that I had with the Pashtuns and tribals in Pakistan and Afghanistan. I was warned that the DNA Project was ended here, at least temporarily, and my life was now in danger. One morning the Army showed up at the houseboat and, with a great show of urgency and AK-47's, made me pack quickly. The death of an American researcher was not something India needed to add to her troubles with militants. And so it ended in Kashmir. I was forced to return to Pakistan and the relative safety there. The situation at the tomb remains in constant flux. Without additional funds, everything has come to a halt for now.

A genizah is a storeroom or depository, usually in a synagogue or cemetery, for safe storage of worn-out Hebrew books and artifacts. It is forbidden to throw away writings containing the name of God[327], whether it appears on a court document or a rod, or in any other form. The name of God makes it sacred. It is to be handled with reverence and buried with care when old and worn out. Having found so many artifacts and documents stored in Roza Bal suggests its purpose was indeed to serve both as a tomb and as a Gerizim.
Because many relics and ancient manuscripts were found in Roza Bal, we can safely assume it was being used as a genizah in the true Hebrew tradition. Thus, Roza Bal becomes 'The Ark of the Tomb.'

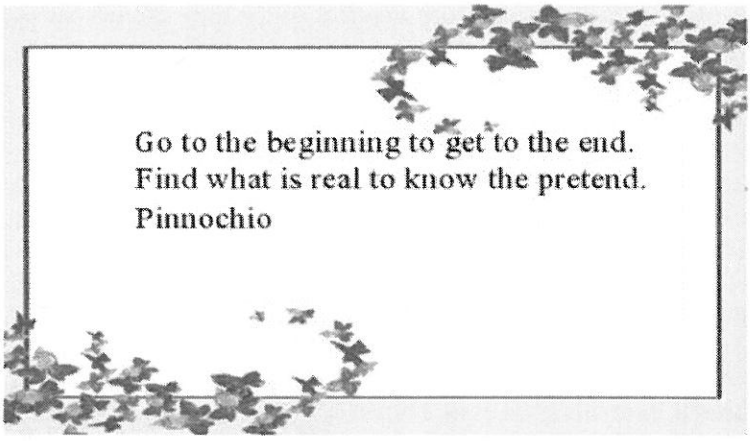


Known as the Cross Potent, the Crusaders used this design of cross, usually in the color red. Dr. Victor Mair, who had spent over 30 years as archaeologist in the Tarim Basin (Kashgar) found this cross as a symbol carried by magi visiting China before the birth of Christ.



The true miracle of the cross may be that Jesus survived.

CULTURAL TERRORISM



On September 11, 2001 the worst place in the world to be was at the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The next worse situation to be caught in was as a single American woman living alone near the terrorist training camps in Pakistan, and having a network of acquaintances who were the sworn enemies of Anglo-America.

Since 9-11 the entire world is aware the impact of global terrorism. Most have a vague idea that it is related to extremism and if we just fix a few extremists, then everything will be all right, and Islam will be a religion of peace. In reality, this will never happen because the Quran itself is full of ambiguities.

The loss and destruction of historical Roza Bal tomb is not a lone incident. There is deliberate destruction on a global scale that boggles the mind.

Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Congo are the world's most dangerous countries for women. [328] However, global terrorism makes everywhere in the world unsafe now. The extent of this terrorism is almost incomprehensible to most people who have no reason to closely monitor terrorists country by country- as I had to. I came through relatively unharmed in some of the most turbulent places. I was not the only western-American woman left in the region during the war with the Taliban and the Afghan war. In contrast to my futile efforts, Nancy Hatch Dupree is a legend of successes.

Mrs. Dupree is an American woman born in 1928, who still serves as Director of the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University and has written five books about the history of Afghanistan. She has become somewhat of a heroic legend to Afghans. She was the wife of Louis Dupree, an archaeologist and scholar of Afghan culture and history. The husband and wife team from the United States worked together for 15 years in Kabul, collecting as many written works about Afghanistan as they could. This is now in the process of being digitalized so anyone anywhere in the world can have access. They travelled across the country to conduct archaeological excavations in their Land Rover truck. She was in her seventies when the Taliban destroyed the Kabul Museum, and was responsible for helping to hide and protect many of Afghanistan's historical treasures. Years later, when it was safe, the Museum Directors revealed the plan they devised to hide the history of Afghan in a secret cellar behind the Museum walls. Due to their efforts, and those of Mrs. Dupree, the Afghan treasures were safe from looting and destruction. The Taliban also destroyed over 100 schools per year in Afghanistan to prevent women from getting an education.



Nancy Hatch Dupree Afghanistan, 2010

On 9 October 2012, Malala Yousafzai, a 16 year old girl who tried to resist Taliban and attend school, was shot in the head and neck in an assassination attempt by Taliban gunmen while she was on a school bus. In the days immediately following the attack, she remained unconscious and in critical condition, but recovered gradually. She has been acknowledged worldwide for her bravery and advocacy for girls' education in Islamic countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan. Madrassas were designed primarily for male students who only study the Quran; no other education is available to them.

When the Taliban were planning the destruction of the Bamyan Buddhas, the questions were asked, "Who owns a country's historical treasures? A religion? A Government? Private museums?" The same questions apply to the Roza Bal tomb in Kashmir. Who should be speaking on behalf of the tomb and protecting it?

Mrs. Dupree said-

[After destruction of the Bamyan Buddhas]

> 'The cultural losses for Afghanistan were irretrievable. Afghans at home and around the world were devastated. Many may be weak in their knowledge of history, but the Bamyan Buddhas were treasured by all. Some described their feelings after the destruction as equal to what they might feel on losing a beloved grandfather. Over the past many years Afghans had endured with fortitude the traumas of war, drought, displacement, a collapsed economy, inept governments, and a disrupted society. Now they felt the meaning of their sacrifices had been taken from them. They felt betrayed...I think that a country is entitled to keep its heritage. But at the same time, in keeping their heritage, they have a responsibility to protect it . . . We would not pay the astronomical prices the dealers were asking (for looted goods) because we did not believe it was proper to reward looters . . . You cannot have 5,000 people wandering around doing their own thing when you're trying to establish a national strategy . . . Afghanistan is not the only place where this has happened . . . I asked the Director [of the Kabul Museum during the war with the Taliban] "Would you at least consider having an exhibition?" That would take the relics out of Afghanistan without the critics saying they were looted or stolen. This way, they would not only be on display, they would be generating income [to help the Museum]. The Tutankhamen exhibit had long lines all over the world. ... Local people often don't get a chance to see these unique things. You have to raise their awareness. The Government will not be able to take care of everything itself, nor should it. It should be the entire community acting out of a sense of responsibility for their past . . . You also have to produce reading materials, posters, and other materials to raise awareness . . . You need to get the information out to everyone so society can be intelligently informed about its heritage and how to protect it. A country is entitled to keep its heritage, but at the same time, it is obligated to protect it.'

This sounds wonderful and I fully support Mrs. Dupree, but there is another side to this issue. Historical sites worldwide will continue to be destroyed because Islam decrees it. In 2012 the Wahabis of Saudi Arabia and the iconoclasts in Egyptian Government continued to call for the destruction of the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza. Back in 1378, an equally zealous Muslim mystic took offense at the Sphinx and took it upon himself to try and demolish it, destroying part of the face. (CNN News, Nov.2012[329]) If this mindset prevails, then one day we could even lose the Pyramids, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Michelangelo's statue of 'David', the Sistine Chapel, the Statue of Liberty, the Taj Mahal, Roza Bal and all other statues, paintings, art, and tombs, including those in the Valley of the Kings, Westminster Abbey,

and the tomb of the Patriarchs (Abraham) in Judea. How long is the statute of limitation on a crime that destroys history? Are any antiquities safe? The nation of Israel has told the world that it will fight to defend claims to the land of Israel based on at least three thousand years of history and birthright. That Arabs came to Israel does not change their claims. There are graves and tombs on Israeli soil far older than Roza Bal. Yet Israel was helpless to save the ancient tomb of the Biblical Patriarch Joseph when it was repeatedly desecrated on their own soil. This *is* the reality of the situation.

Funded by a never-ending supply of petrol, tourist, and pilgrim dollars, the people who support such destruction have unlimited wealth and time and global organizations to fund the spread their faith worldwide. They believe it was Muhammad who set the example by destroying the idols in Mecca. They believe that it is their religious duty to continue to destroy everything un-Islamic, regardless its historical worth.

In India, Muslim invaders kept careful records of every rape, torture, forced conversion, murder, destruction, in their efforts to outdo one another's claims to horrors committed in the name of Allah.

The following excerpts are from an article published on Islam 21, an International Forum for Islamic Dialogue (IFID) by Saeed Shehabi, Ph.D., Chairman of IFID, London, and relates directly to the potential threats to Roza Bal tomb-

> 'The extent of the destruction of historic Islamic monuments has come to light with devastating impact. It is now estimated that more than 90 per cent of historic mosques, mausoleums and other artifacts have been erased from the face of the earth.... There is now a growing fear that other monuments and mausoleums in Iraq, Iran and elsewhere may be targeted by elements loyal to the Salafi School of Muhammad ibn 'Abd al Wahabi, the godfather of the most destructive force in the (Muslim) world. The extremism of today's Salafi movement has become a force of annihilation, which spares no one in its drive to dominate the world....and adopted doctrines that label people with differing views as unbelievers and polytheists. Those falling into these categories, according to him, were worthy of nothing but extermination. Their lives deserved no sanctity, their wealth could be plundered and their families could be enslaved or killed. Extremists are now distributed over the five continents and are threatening not only non-Muslims but also the very fabric of the Muslim Ummah, which is being destroyed in the rising sectarian discord promoted by followers of the neo-Salafis.... heritage has been subjected to utter vandalism and eradication....It is a religious or political war? Is it an interest-based war or the result or ignorance and prejudice?
>
> (In 2006) the grave of Hashim ibn 'Abd Manaf, Prophet Muhammad's grandfather, in the Palestinian controlled city of Gaza was des-

> ecrated. 'Abd al Latif Hashim, the Director of the Documentation Department at the Palestinian Ministry of Endowments, accused the Salafis and Wahhabis of carrying out this heinous act.... The desecration was in line with the pattern of destruction followed over the centuries....they are attacks on civilization, and culture and the losses are irreplaceable....targeting symbols that are sacred to others can only provoke sectarian and religious tension, which could lead to bloodshed....targeting the graves and tombs of historic Muslim figures is tantamount to humiliating these noble ancestors and is contradictory to Islamic values and teachings.'

Historically, the destruction of graves goes back to the early days of Islam, although at that time it was carried out for different reasons. In 236 AH/850 CE, the Abbasid Caliph, al Mutawakkil, ordered the destruction of Imam Hussain's grave. The earth was leveled and the ground flooded with water.

Visiting tombs of disciples or displaying faith symbols has been equated to polytheism (shirk), which is liable to the maximum punishment (death)....This led to the destruction of more than 90 per cent of Islamic monuments, holy places, tombs and mausoleums. Anything that had symbolic significance unrelated to the Wahhabi school of thought was deemed "polytheistic" and faced destruction. In 1924, 'Abd al 'Aziz ibn Sa'ud and his troops occupied Mecca in the region of Hejaz. Among their first actions was the destruction of al Mu'alla graveyard, which contained the grave of Khadija, Prophet Muhammad's wife, and that of his uncle, Abu Talib. They still have plans to destroy Muhammad's tomb and build a high rise office building on the site.

When Ibn Sa'ud occupied Medina, he demolished the mausoleum over the graves of several of Muhammad's descendants, including those of his daughter Fatimah, and his grandson, Hassan ibn 'Ali.....The birthplace of Muhammad has been removed and new toilets built on the site. There is also a plan to separate Muhammad's grave from his mosque in preparation for the desecration of the grave itself. The connecting doors between the two sites are regularly closed as a prelude to the implementation of the plan. Even the Kabbah has not been spared destruction.... Early in 2006, many of the artifacts and historic items inside it have been removed and destroyed, including engraved writings, silk ornaments and curtains....only a small percentage of Islamic historic sites remain (in the world)....Continued destruction will bury Islamic history and civilization. Extremist trends have mushroomed from the Wahhabi–Salafi movement and have become a threat to the political and social fabric of all countries, in addition to their threat against world peace and security. Muslim scholars and thinkers are urged to deal effectively with this destructive ideology before it achieves the total eradication of the Islamic heritage, not only in the Arabian Peninsula but also

elsewhere.'[330] 'Elsewhere' includes the Roza Bal tomb, a tomb that is not and never was an Islamic tomb.

FATE OF ALL TOMBS

The land that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor at Shechem was used to bury Joseph after coming out of Egypt (*Joshua 24:32*), Joseph had the birthright of inheritance from Jacob. It is one of the holiest sites in Judaism as the final resting place of Joseph and his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh. The present structure over the tomb is recent, dating from 1868, and is devoid of any trace of ancient building materials. No serious archaeology has taken place at the site to determine what may lie deeper. It reflects a situation parallel to that at the Roza Bal tomb in Kashmir.

In February 2003, it was reported in the Jerusalem Post that the grave had been pounded with hammers and that the tree at its entrance had been broken; car parts and trash littered the tomb, which had a "huge hole in its dome." The site suffered from neglect. Garbage was dumped there. Because it fell into an area designated "Palestinian," Jews could not get near the tomb to maintain it or protect it. In early 2008, a group of MKs wrote a letter to the Prime Minister-

> 'The tombstone is completely shattered, and the holy site is desecrated in an appalling manner, filled with trash and refuse, the likes of which we have not seen in Israel or anywhere else in the world.'[331]

Palestinian vandals then set tires on fire at the tomb. (See photos at end of this chapter.) Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas then declared the tomb a 'Muslim' holy site.[332] They have not explained by what justification ancient dead people can be converted to another faith, or how this declaration somehow justifies their destruction of the tomb. The best analogy I can think of would be allowing the Vatican. or the Dalai Lama to determine the fate of Muhammad's tomb, and declare him a Buddhist.

In 2009, monthly visits to the tomb in bullet-proof vehicles under heavy IDF protection were organized by the Yitzhar based organization Shechem Ehad.[333] In late April 2009, a group of Jewish worshipers found the headstone smashed and swastikas painted on the walls, as well as boot prints on the shattered grave itself (see photos).[334] On April 24, 2011, Palestinian Authority police officers opened fire on three cars of Israeli worshipers after they finished praying at Joseph's Tomb. An Israeli citizen was killed and three others were wounded. It is highly unlikely that any original DNA remains in that tomb, and this is a great loss for mankind. Many major Jewish and Christian holy sites lay in an area that the Palestinians are trying to separate from Israel. If they ever succeeded, all these ancient sites will be destroyed. It is not just tombs that are in danger.

GOD'S LAW AND MAN'S LAW

Sometimes-bad things become part of religious or civil law, and sometimes it is hard for us to figure out where God's laws end and man's laws begin, especially when the 'laws' themselves contradict one another from religion to religion. Crime is caused by laws. Any action is simply an action until there is a law against it. The Old Testament cannot be translated literally. It requires an allegorical reading to be justified; otherwise our lives today would be anything but civilized and law-abiding. *Exodus 21:24* is the 'lex talionis', the law of retaliation, and was among the Roman laws of the 'twelve tables.' It states-"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot." This would give us a world filled with blinded, toothless, lame, helpless people if we took every word literally. That was not the intention.

Jesus explained this to the Pharisees, "You have heard it said an eye for an eye tooth for a tooth BUT I tell you love...." (*Matthew 5:38*). The original meaning of eye for eye, tooth for tooth is VERY CLEAR. It was to say that in public justice, the punishment for a crime should *fit* the crime. This was not an indication to physically pluck the eye out of someone. It is allegory saying that the degree of punishment should be suitable to the degree of the crime (*Exodus 21.*) A man should not be imprisoned for life or have an arm cut off simply because he stole a loaf of bread to feed his starving family.

Again, the reason Jesus condemned the "eye for eye tooth for tooth" view in the New Testament was not because he was disagreeing with what God had already established plainly in the Old. He was disapproving of the Pharisees' redefining the law as an excuse to take vengeance on their enemies. Jesus reminded the people of what truly pleases God by quoting the law as given to Moses in *Leviticus 19:17-18* "Love your neighbor as yourself".

He also summed up the entire moral law in the Old Testament when He said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is similar: Love your neighbor as yourself."

"All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (*Matthew 22:37-40*). These are the very same commandments that Muhammad abrogated 650 years later. Muhammad took Muslims backward instead of forward.

What helped Christianity spread so rapidly was not the gun or the sword, not strict literal adherence to Biblical stories, or overzealous missionaries, but a willingness to write a new chapter in religion that included recognition of human rights, equality, tolerance, forgiveness, and service to mankind. The primary difference in the approach of Buddha and Jesus is that Buddha never discussed God. Buddha felt that man had to take on more responsibility for his own actions.

Like Buddha, Jesus expected every apostle to build schools, ashrams, orphanages and give free medical care and food to those in need. Christianity

encapsulated all the highest values of the Roman world as we find them expressed in their pagan traditional literature and stories. It was a religion that most people came to recognize as all that was good and noble in their existing traditions.

All major religious documents-from the Bible to the Bhagavad-Gita, from Tao-te-ching to the Quran-refer to God, love, peace, cooperation, friendship, revenge and war, and moralize about these things. What is right from wrong?

The three major legal systems of the world today consist of civil law, common law and religious law. Religious laws are moral laws that forbid certain actions in the name of God. Laws not associated with God are civil laws, written by and for mankind. For the most part, the civil laws are similar for all mankind; do not steal, murder, assault you wife or neighbors, do not rape, lie, et cetera. Religious law includes when/how to worship God, pray, sexual conduct, food, clothing, circumcision, cutting hair, et cetera.

We do not have a physical God we can point to and say, "There is God. Ask Him." It is all guesswork and conjecture on our parts.

It is an urban myth to say that different prophets were sent by God at different times to different people. If there is one God, and if every prophet was inspired by, or in contact with the same God, there would be no conflicting messages. It makes no sense that God would write conflicting versions for different people; for example forbidding slavery for some, but not for others, lying under some circumstances (al-Takeyya) but not others, beheadings for some, but forgiveness for others, four or more wives for some, but only one for others, beating wives into submission but treating them fairly and equally under other circumstances, worship the cow, or not. Eat like a carnivore, or a vegetarian. Pray east. Or west. Cut hair. Cover head with hats and veils. Circumcise or not. Bury the dead in graves and tombs, or not. This is not the confusion caused by a loving, intelligent god.

The Old Testament and the Quran both justify, condone, and regulate matters like human slavery, fidelity, sexual conduct. Jesus did away with Biblical horrors of slavery, wars, an eye for an eye, stoning, beheadings, the position of women in society, et cetera. Muhammad reinstated these old ways back into the Quran, and then added a few new twists of his own; Islamic Sharia law and the Hadiths support pedophilia, killing homosexuals, killing apostates, chopping hands and feet off for petty crimes, stoning people to death for adultery, and other draconian laws. This is why the Quran is regarded as too ambiguous to survive into the next century.

In 2012, a Muslim cleric involved in the destruction of the Bamyan Buddha called for destruction of the Sphinx and the Giza Pyramids in Egypt on the grounds that Muhammad ordered destruction of all idols. "The Salafis have demanded to cover or destroy Pharaonic statues because they regard them to be idols," Egyptian author on ancient history Ahmed Osman told Al Arabiya English, explaining that Salafi Muslims follow 'conservative'

religious principles which view statues and sculptures as prohibited in Islam." [Al Arabiya News 12 November 2012.]

Who listens to them? The entire Saudi family. What would they do to the Louvre in Paris, the Tate in London, Michelangelo's 'David' and 'Pieta' or the Statue of Liberty in New York? I shudder to think of what else could happen. In August 2013, men, women, and children were gassed in Syria by their own government during ongoing conflicts in the region-the so-called 'Arab spring', internecine warfare. Ancient historic sites were looted and destroyed and the radical ruling regime of Assad did nothing.

"Let there be no compulsion in religion." (Quran 2:256)

This sounds like something that Jesus might say. Muslims worldwide are fond of taking this quote out of context. However, this is the danger when examining any quote from the Quran. Statements contradict themselves throughout the Quran. According to the Quran (and Hadith), disbelief in Islam is punishable through jihad against non-Muslims, through execution of apostates, and through slaying hypocrites, critics, and even satirical poets. Non-Muslims living under Islamic rule also face the prospect of being forced into dhimmitude or slavery. Religious freedom requires the ability to freely express criticism of a religion. The Quran forbids this. (2:2)

This compulsion/coercion is foundational to Islam itself, as described by contemporary Muslim scholar Bassam Tibi-

> 'At its core, Islam is a religious mission to all humanity. Muslims are religiously obliged to disseminate the Islamic faith throughout the world. 'We have sent you forth to all mankind' (Q. 34:28). If non-Muslims submit to conversion or subjugation, this call (da'wa) can be pursued peacefully. If they do not, Muslims are obliged to wage war against them (overt or covert). In Islam, peace requires that non-Muslims submit to the call of Islam, either by converting or by accepting the status of a religious minority (dhimmi) and paying the imposed poll tax, jizya. World peace, the final stage of the da'wa, is reached only with the conversion or submission of all mankind to Islam... Muslims believe that expansion through war is not aggression but a fulfillment of the Quran command to spread Islam. The resort to force to disseminate Islam is not war (harb), a word that is used only to describe the use of force by non-Muslims. Islamic wars are not hurub (the plural of harb) but rather futuhat, acts of 'opening' the world to Islam and expressing Islamic jihad. Relations between dar al-Islam, the home of peace, and dar al-harb, the world of unbelievers, nevertheless take place in a state of war, according to the Qur'an. Unbelievers who stand in the way, creating obstacles for the da'wa, are blamed for this state of war, for the da'wa can be pursued peacefully if others submit to it. In other words, those who resist Islam 'cause' wars and are responsible for them..."[335] But even worse, after all the 'abroga-

tions' in the Quran, who is to define 'non-believers'? Even sects within Islam are in constant conflict with one another, as with Sunnis-Shias- Ahmaddi conflicts.'

99% of all ongoing conflicts in the world today are provoked by Islam as the direct result of the instructions given in the Quran; Islam vs. Christians, Islam vs. Buddhists, Islam vs. Hindus; religions that have little or no conflicts among themselves are still struggling with conflicts of Islam going back 1400 years. Something is wrong with 'the religion of peace' if it has ongoing conflicts with everyone else on earth.'

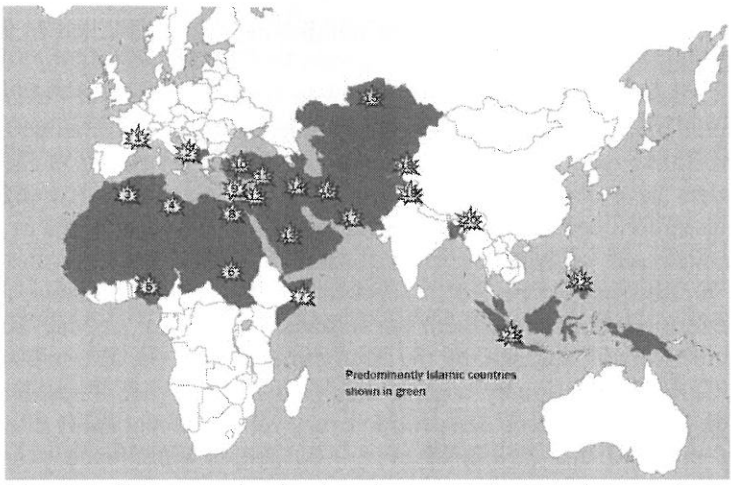
Recently, the world has begun viewing Islam not as a religion, but as a well-funded propaganda/military machine hiding behind the fascade of a religion, cleverly using democratic laws of religious freedoms as a tool to defeat democracy with its own laws!

The conflicts in Mexico, North and South America shown on the map are connected with drug cartels, a more recent event. The remaining conflicts appearing on the world map are initiated by Islam, not by Islamophobia, not by the Jews, or the CIA, or Satan America, neither western conspiracy theories nor oil, nor for religious domination or in self-defense because drones are flying overhead. These are excuses, exaggerated 'cover stories' to divert away from the real underlying cause and its sponsors.[336]

Islamic nations find themselves in continual conflict among themselves and with their non-Muslim neighbors: Jewish Israel, Hindu India, Buddhist Thailand, Christian Africa and Europe. These other countries do not find themselves involved with the same level of conflict with each other, but they are constantly at odds with Muslims - often provoked to the point of military actions.

In the year 2011, the number of armed conflicts involving Islam in the world increased markedly, with the strongest increase-taking place in Sub-Saharan Africa. 2011-12-13 also saw an increase in the severity of the conflicts. Six conflicts escalated to full blown wars, up from four in 2010. In 2013, the pattern continues worldwide. The 'Arab Spring' has resulted in several hundred thousand deaths across more than a dozen Islamic countries, even illegal gassing and bombing of civilians by their own governments. In Syria the Assad regime has killed more than 100,000 Syrian men, women, and children in just one year.

Because Islam resorts to use of weapons and military actions, it is more frequently regarded as a military establishment, and not as a religion.



The death toll from Islamization is staggering, and exceeds even the combined civilian and military death tolls of World Wars 1 and 2, the Korean and Vietnam War. The Assyrian International News Agency estimates that Muslims are responsible for the deaths of 300 million non-Muslims worldwide. The conservative number of deaths directly caused by Muslims are-

> Buddhists-10 million...Hindus- 80 to 100 million...Africa-120 million...Christians- 60 to 100 million...Egypt-14.5 million...Armenian Christians 1.5 million.[337]

These numbers far exceed the deaths caused by both Genghis Khan and Hitler combined.

Within ten years after 9-11, although drastic methods were in place to reduce terror attacks, more than 10,000 Buddhists were brutally murdered (including young children on their way to school) by Sunni Muslim separatists in Southern Thailand. This was a *conservative* period for Buddhist deaths from 2004 to present, according to a report by the PBS Newshour (Feb. 21, 2012 [338]).

Just as in Afghanistan, students, teachers and schools are frequent targets of Islamists around the world, although there are no drones (unmanned aircraft) in Thailand, no oil or gas pipelines to fight over in Sudan or Ethiopia., no disputed borders as in Palestine or Kashmir. The excuses get weak, but the money behind these worldwide insurgencies can always be traced back to the same sources, and they are the script writers for Muslim actions worldwide.

Islamic terrorists have staged more than ten thousand deadly attacks in the ten years following 9-11. As I write this in April, 2014, this situation continues unchecked. If one goes back to 1971, when Muslim armies in Bangladesh began the mass slaughter of Hindus, through the years of Jihad in the Sudan, Kashmir and Algeria, and the present-day Sunni-Shia violence in Iraq, the

'Arab Spring' in the Middle East, the number of innocents killed in the name of Islam continues unabated.

Iran rattles swords at Iraq, Palestinians at Israel, Afghans at Pakistan, and Pakistan at India. Wars rage on in Africa. Deaths mount in Thailand, Myanmar and South East Asia. Since the 'Arab Spring' began in December, 2011 rulers have been forced from power in Tunisia, Egypt (twice), Libya, and Yemen; civil uprisings have erupted in Bahrain and Syria; major protests have broken out in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, and Sudan. Similar protests have occurred in Mauritania, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, and Western Sahara. There were border clashes in Israel in May 2011, and protests in Iranian Khuzestan by the Arab minority erupted, also in 2011.

The Christian missionary organization 'Open Doors UK'--- estimates that 100 million Christians face persecution every year. A recent study cited by the Vatican. reported that 75 out of every 100 people killed each year due to religious hatred are *Christian*, not Muslims or Jews, Hindus or Buddhist.

The commissioner for religious freedom, Organization for Security and Collaboration in Europe, Massimo Introgivne, determined that *every five minutes* worldwide, a Christian dies because of his faith. Christians today are the most persecuted community worldwide, and Muslims are the Christian killers.

In Nigeria, Somalia and Iran shooting, stabbing or killing a Christian is considered only a misdemeanor. When it is the matter of a converted Muslim, or apostate, it is actually considered a duty to kill the convert. Apostasy-to try to leave Islam- is a capital crime in most of these places.

One of the primary functions of any society is to define the circumstances under which people will die. No one can live in a society where everyone has a knife, a sword, a suicide bomb, or an AK 47 and takes the law into his own hands, makes his own decisions, and wantonly kills according to his own, or another's internal decision-making process.

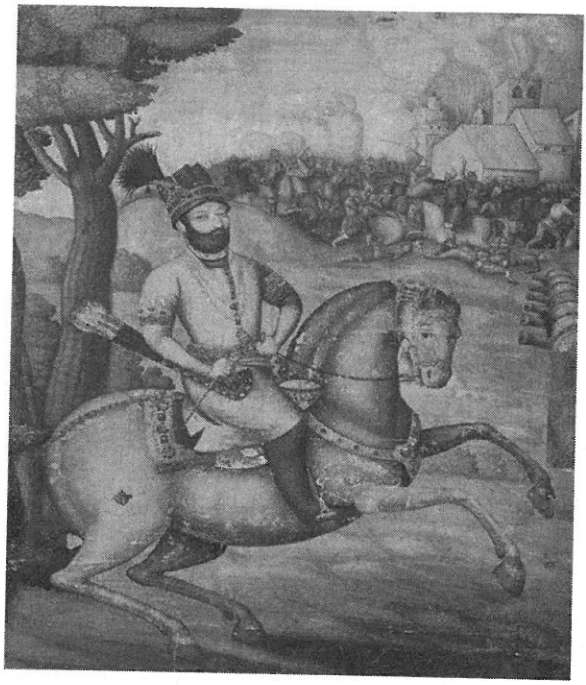
Muhammad's ambitions were no different from Attila the Hun, Ghengis Khan, Hitler, or any other military expansionist. It had nothing to do with religion and everything to do with piracy, with gaining bounty and territory. The only difference is in the length of time. Islam continues only because of the confusion over whether it is a religion or a clever military strategy. There are two ways to approach a study of Muhammad and Islam. One is with reverence and the other is with skepticism.

Muhammad was dismissive of the suffering and death he caused, and his way of thinking and governing was terrifying.

The Quran plainly teaches that it is not only proper to attack innocent civilians, often at night targeting wives, mothers, and children, make endless war, and kill in the name of Allah, but that it is actually a requirement of the faith. His attacks are called gazwah (raids, ambush, and surprise attacks).

When Islam invaded India, Hindus were slaughtered by the millions. The conquerors kept records of their rapes, tortures, forced conversions, slavery, thefts, and destruction, trying to outdo one another. These 'brag books' were proof they kept the faith and followed the example left by Muhammad. These are the role-models held in high esteem by Muslim scholars from Muhammad to this day.

> 'The irony for Muslims is they accuse Christians of worshipping Jesus with God, making Jesus a co-equal partner with the Almighty. This, according to Islam, is called "shirk" and is an unpardonable sin that "Allah" will never forgive. The truth of the matter, however, is that Islam itself also associates the "prophet" Mohammad — whom Muslims claim to be the most "perfect man" to ever walk the face of the earth — with "Allah" himself. On one hand, Islam teaches that "Allah" has no partners, but then contradicts itself by teaching that someone cannot become a Muslim unless they acknowledge that "There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his messenger" per the Shahada. Unless one acknowledges Mohammad they cannot become a Muslim. In Islam, a Muslim's "salvation" is therefore entirely determined by their obedience and devotion to Mohammed, effectively elevating the "prophet" of Islam to the same co-equal status of Islam's own deity. To acknowledge the god of Islam is not enough.
> The "perfect man" Muhammad MUST be acknowledged alongside "Allah" as well …' [339]



Nadir Shah invading India- his men chased citizens across the Hindu-Kush to Delhi. In six hours in one day, 22 March 1739, 20,000 to 30,000 unarmed men, women and children were slaughtered by the Persian troops. Men were quickly killed, but women and children were slowly and horribly tortured. The blood-curdling screams could be heard miles away. Bodies piled high and left to rot as the Muslims went house to house taking everything they wanted. Delhi lay in ruins. Thousands of horses and elephants carried the immense loot back to Iran, including the famous Koh-i-Noor and Darya-ye Noor diamonds, now part of the British and Iranian Crown Jewels. 208 years later, the Muslims demanded their own permanent piece of India. This resulted in the creation of Pakistan. Muslims headed north to the newly formed Pakistan. Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians headed south to democratic India. The stories that had been handed down through the generations, the horror of it all came alive again. Estimates of up to a million people were murdered on all sides. Families resorted to killing their own women and children rather than risk losing them. Looting and pillaging could not be contained and exceeded everything described previously in history. The above painting is in Museum Fine Arts, Boston.

SAFIYAH & KINANAH-A LOVE STORY

I was drawn to the story of Safiyah and Kinanah because it best illustrates for me the moral compass of Muhammad. Safiyah Bint Huyai Ibn Akhtab was a very young and beautiful Jewish girl, leader of her community, who was captured when Muhammad's troops attacked Khyber. The story of Safiyah is well known and appears in the 'Book of Tabaqat' and many other sources, some Jewish, some Muslim. Of course the motives behind each action of Muhammad are presented very differently by Muslims and non-Muslims, by Sunnis or Shias. It is imperative to read the history from *each perspective* for balance.

Two years earlier, Muhammad had beheaded Huyai, the father of Safiyah along with 900 men of Bani Quraiza, the last Jewish tribe he wanted to drive out of Medina. Huyayy Ibn Akhtab, father of Safiyah was a direct descendent of Aaron, brother of Moses, and was the leader of the Bani Nadir, one of the Jewish tribes of Medina that Muhammad banished. When the Bani Nadir were exiled, Muhammad took possession of all their wealth, 100% of it, arguing that all their spoils belonged to him personally. At other times he demanded at least twenty percent of all spoils of war.

A year later he launched an attack against the Bani Quraiza, the last Jewish tribe of Medina. He vowed to drive out all Jews because they would not accept his 'prophethood'. But there is a lot more to this. It wasn't just about accepting 'prophethood.' It was about seizing trade routes and lands that had been nurtured-deserts made to bloom- by generations of Jewish landowners-more than sixty percent of the population-who were farmers, Jewish Bedouins, merchants, builders, sculptors, historians, and philosophers, traders in fine silks and rare spices and incense. They were masters at sea, and had great knowledge of astronomy. Before there were any Muslims anywhere in Arabia, there were Jews.

> 'Arabia-Judaic, the home of Arabic Jews- a phenomenon that now seems to us oxymoronic, but in the two centuries before the arrival of Islam was the most natural thing in the world.' [340]Simon Schama

Huyayy ibn Akhtab, the leader of the Bani Nadir was in the fortress of Bani Quraiza. Muhammad demanded that all the men of this tribe should be beheaded and it was here that Huyayy, father of Safiyah, was killed along with seven to nine hundred men and boys of Bani Quraiza, including her brothers and many cousins. The Bani Nadir took refuge in Khyber, the Jewish fortress 160 km to the North of Medina. That is how Safiyah ended up in Khyber and married her cousin Kinanah. ibn al-Rabi, treasurer of the Banu Nadir They were both leaders of the community, and Kinanah was the trusted treasurer of that town, serving in place of the elders who had been killed.

> 'Khyber had enough water streaming from surrounding hills and stored in catchment tanks to irrigate vast areas of date palms and vines. The area was settled by Jews who had fled destruction of the Temple.' Simon Schama, 'The Story of the Jews' p.233.

Safiyah had formerly been the betrothed of Sallam ibn Mishkam, but this marriage contract was dissolved, possibly even before the marriage was consummated. One reason for breaking a marriage contract made by the parents is love. A perfect match is called "bashert," a word meaning fate or destiny, a match made in heaven. If a partner is in love with someone else, this is bashert, and the marriage agreements (engagement period) can be changed before the marriage is actually consummated. Moving from Medina to Khyber may also have influenced the decision to change the marriage contracts.

Safiyah was seventeen and very beautiful. She had been officially married to Kinanah only a day or two before Muhammad's attack. When Muhammad raided Khyber, it was a surprise attack against a peaceful farming community that was not at war with the Muslims. Muhammad marched in secret, took them by surprise and easily defeated them. He first killed all the unarmed men encountered in the fields. They were not ready for war, not expecting Muhammad to attack them. Once Muhammad had them as prisoners, he ordered the death of all men and boys, and the taking of all women as slaves and wives. He then took the entire village as his own booty.

Kinanah was the trusted treasurer of the village. When Muhammad found out that some money and gold and Safiyah's dowry might be hidden nearby, he had Kinanah brought before him and tortured to reveal the location of the city's treasures. A fire was lit on his chest. The acrid smell of burning flesh rose from his body. He screamed in pain but he did not tell them where the money was hidden. Muhammad gouged out his eyes with a fire stick, but still he did not tell them if there was any treasure. In disgust and anger, Muhammad gave orders to al-Zubayr b. al-'Awwam- "torture him until you root out what he has." Al-Zubayr kept twirling the fire stick on his breast until Kinanah lost consciousness and was near death; then he was beheaded. (Ibn Ishaq, pp. 515-17). There was no forgiving enemies, no human compassion or empathy. It was all about the money. For me, this story stands out as the true example, the turning point of my views about the sanctity of Muhammad and Islam. Muhammad had already killed Safiyah's father, brothers, cousins, and both husbands within a year or so. Her suffering and reputation for crying won her a place in Sufi works. She is mentioned in all major books of hadith for relating a few traditions and a number of events in her life serve as legal precedents. Muhammad's other wives often teased Safiyah about her Jewish origin. Safiyah frequently gave up her turn to have Muhammad enter her tent (for sex) in order that other wives could have more time with him. Doubts

about Safiyah's loyalty to Islam and the suspicion that she would avenge her slain kin are themes in the Sirah Rasul Allah (biographies of Muhammad).

The actions of Muhammad are especially shocking because he lived 500 years after Jesus. He knew about Christians and about Jesus preaching tolerance, "forgive thine enemies", "protect orphans and widows", "do unto others", and "thou shalt not kill"... He included similar quotes in the Quran, trying to emulate the good image left by Jesus. He admired Mother Mary and Jesus. But obviously he did not understand their examples.

The Quran can appear to be a wise compilation of love, peace, tolerance and great governance (Sharia and treatment of women). However, quotes are often taken out of context and can be misunderstood or misrepresented. Muhammad is often described as the world's most perfect man, a saint, a true prophet of God, according to devout Muslims.

However, Muhammad's behavior was nothing like Jesus' behavior, nor that of any other prophet. His words, deeds, and most of his laws, rituals and punishments reflect injustice, intolerance, prejudice, anger and cruelty.

Mathew 7:16-

'By their fruits you shall know them.'

Al Bukhari Hadith 2977, Muhammad said-

'I have been made victorious with terror.'

Muhammad sought a volunteer to assassinate Asma bt. Marwan, a simple poetess who did not like Muhammad or Islam and criticized him. Muhammad hinted that he wouldn't mind if some ill fate befell the poetess. Umayr b. Adiy al-Khatmi decided to win Muhammad's favor by silencing her. In the dark of night he crept into her home. Her little children surrounded Asma while she slept. Hugging her bosom was her infant, suckling her breast. Umayr pulled the infant from her breast and plunged his sword in her belly with such a force that it passed through her back. This severe blow killed Asma on the spot. It was just five days before the end of the sacred month of fasting, Ramadan, when Muslims are not supposed to shed blood. (Ibn Sa'd, "Kitab al-Tabaqat," vol ii, p. 30.) The next morning Muhammad expressed his delight that the woman was dispensed with. There are at least six incidents of women and elderly ordered to be killed directly by Muhammad for the simple act of criticizing him. There are 42 incidents of death and torture perpetrated by Muhammad against an individual, unrelated to war or any valid justification. Killing came too easily and without remorse for Muhammad. He had choices. He had peaceful options but he rarely chose them. Much is made of the few times that he did forgive and pardon.

Returning to the story of Safiyah., after killing Kinanah, Muhammad was casually drinking grape wine (before he forbid it on earth and elevated it to a reward in heaven) with Ali, Usman, Omar, Zubayr and Dihya over the decapitated bodies lying in rivers of blood in the sand at their feet.

The women were brought out from the fort and marched past the beheaded men. Kinanah's sisters, ages 9 and 10, were holding Safiyah's hands when they saw the headless body of their brother. Safiyah, described as a tiny petite girl, lunged at Muhammad and one of the girls began screaming hysterically. (Bukhari 7:69:486) Safiyah then tried to calm the child but to no avail. Muhammad was visibly irritated by the terrified children, calling one of them a she-devil, and had her taken away from his sight. Some say that Muhammad had the girl beheaded to quiet her. Some accounts say that she taken away to be beaten and raped into submission then sold into slavery. (The History of Tabari, Vol. 8, p. 29-30). Safiyah was taken first by Dihya to his tent to be raped on the spot. Safiyah resisted him and struggled to get away. Hearing the commotion some men peeked in and realized how beautiful Safiyah was. They told Muhammad that Dihya got the best girl that day. Muhammad then forced Dihya into a trade and claimed her for himself. Muslim apologists have inserted a lot of unrealistic nonsense into the story at this point, claiming that Safiyah was beaten by her husband for mentioning a dream about Muhammad, and this accounted for her blackened eye. Why would Kinanah beat his wife on their wedding night? In another version, she longed to be a Muslim in spite of the fact that Muhammad had just ruthlessly killed her father, brothers and uncles. This revisionism tries to mask the beating she just suffered while resisting the attempted rape by Dihya. Muhammad offered her freedom. Much is made of this as though he was making a kind and noble gesture, done to impress and unite the Jewish tribes around Muhammad. However, this is apologists' nonsense. She was already free! It was Muhammad who enslaved her in the first place, and her freedom was a mere joke now. A completely different account appears in Al-Bayhaqi, Dala'il an-Nubuwwah, vol. 4, p. 230, cited in Muhammad Fathi Mus'ad, 'The Wives of the Prophet Muhammad: Their Strives and Their Lives', p.166, Safiyah relates she hated Muhammad for killing her father and both of her husbands. Muhammad apologized to her saying, "Your father charged the Arabs against me and committed heinous acts." This is not true. The only 'heinous act' committed was annihilation of the entire Bani Qainuqa on the pretext that few of them had killed a Muslim in retaliation after he killed a Jewish jeweler. [341] (Guillaume 363, Stillman 122, ibn Kathir 2.)

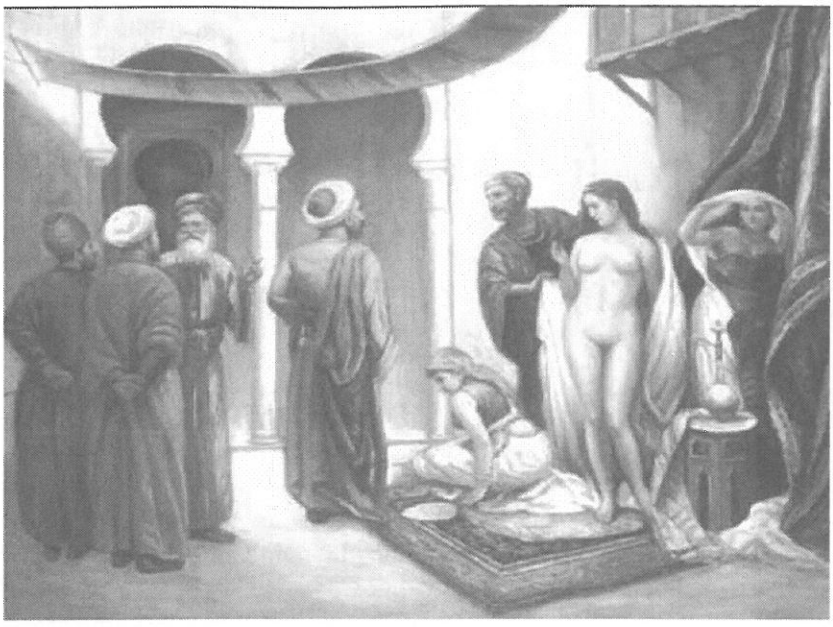
Muhammad never offered to release her back to her own Hebrew family or villages. "Freedom" meant giving her over to one of the other men, She had nowhere else to go. She had no freedom left. Muhammad took all those choices from her. Her social status would not have mattered because Muhammad did not intend on maintaining amiable ties with the Jews of Khyber.



The remains of Khyber Fort today.

It is debated how long Muhammad waited to rape Safiyah, but it was not the prescribed three months that he himself ordained for widows. (Quran 65:4, Dawood) It is unclear whether he married her before the rape or not, but that minor point doesn't matter. It does not justify his behavior. The sex took place immediately or the questions would never have been raised and men would not have been guarding the tent to protect Muhammad during the rape. Abu Ayyub al-Ansari guarded the tent of Muhammad the whole night. It is *not* reasonable to claim that she "dreamed of joining Muhammad and Islam" in any way except nightmares. The guards worried that she might attempt to kill Muhammad because he had just murdered her father, brothers, and new husband. Muhammad was 60 years old, Safiyah was barely 17. Safiyah was the 'wife' best known for frequently bursting into tears and begging Aisha to take over on nights scheduled for Muhammad's nuptial visits.

Muslim apologists defend Muhammad's multiple sexual relations by arguing that he was not motivated by lust, but rather by politics and concern for widows. This seems disingenuous in light of the evidence to the contrary. He had 13 wives. He had sex with numerous slave girls, some as young as nine years old. Some were sent as slave gifts to appease his sexual appetite, such as the little Christian sisters Maria the Copt and Serin, who were sent to him as gifts to appease him. He took to wed and bed even his own family members and their servants. This was carefully recorded in the Quran, where Muhammad tried to assure followers that he was given special permission by Allah for these sexual and murderous excesses. (Qur'an 33:37/33-50 & 51/66:1-5).



Tabari VIII: 38

"The Prophet selected for himself from among the Jewish women of the Qurayza, Rayhanah. She became his concubine. When he predeceased her, she was still in his possession. When the Messenger of Allah took her as a captive, she showed herself averse to Islam and insisted on Judaism."

Ishaq: 466

"The Apostle chose one of the Jewish women for himself. Her name was Rayhanah. She remained with him until she died, in his power. The Apostle proposed to marry her and put the veil on her but she said, 'Leave me under your power, for that will be easier. She showed repugnance towards Islam."

This would be a good time to recall what was said here in a previous chapter. Mizra Tahir Ahmad (1928-2003) said-

'No religion with a universal message…under one flag can even momentarily entertain the idea of employing force to spread its message. Swords can win territories, but not hearts. Force can bend heads, but not minds.'

A study of prophets is a study about their lives, their moral behavior, their attitudes, and how they achieved the fruits of their labors. Their true character is not in suave seductive words, but in deeds. We gauge their moral compass through their personal habits and actions. A man who preaches eloquently

about the sanctity of life while blood drips from his hands is saying one thing but doing another. That is a false prophet.

It was Muhammad's ability to observe and inflict pain and suffering on fellow human beings, to watch someone screaming out and writhing in pain while casually drinking wine, chatting with companions, calculating his gains and seizing the young girls while his hands still dripped with the blood of their families. These are the images that I see over and over in my mind. What if Safiyah was my daughter, my sister, or me? What if Kinanah had been my brother, my father, my son? What would Guru Nanak or Buddha or Jesus have done? Muhammad had choices too but he chose bloodshed, sexual excesses, torture and suffering. His heart was hardened to the cries for mercy and compassion, many of which are openly recorded in the Quran.

These were never God's choices, nor Allah's, but Muhammad's. The world is still reeling from the violent examples he set. His followers use his examples to justify cruelty, bigotry, violence and bizarre sexual behaviors even to this day.

Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer, *The Cross in the Shadow of the Crescent-*

> 'We should listen to what Muslims say about their religion and about Sharia, but we must study their foundations and pay careful attention to what they practice, both the good and the bad.'

MURDER OF MUHAMMAD

Safiyah was Muhammad's property for just four years when he died. His wives and slaves gathered 'round him as he lay dying. There had been thirteen women married to Muhammad. Either nine or eleven were present at his death. According to an account by Anas bin Malik, "The Prophet used to visit all his wives in a round, during the day and night and they were eleven in number."

He suspected that he was dying of an attempt to poison him several years earlier. (Sahih al-Bukhari, Volume 3, Book 47, Number 786) However no poison remains dormant in the body for 3 or 4 years.

It is apparent that one or more of his wives finally succeeded in secretly poisoning him again. He remained alone with Aisha to the very end, only occasional visitors were permitted as he neared death.

The wives who gathered round his deathbed winked at one another. What grieving widows wink over the deathbed of a loved spouse? This is an important clue to what was really going on. Safiyah was with Muhammad for nearly four years. She was almost 20 when he died. She lived to be sixty years old. She never accepted Islam. She left a small inheritance to her Jewish

nephew when she died. According to the Quran, 33:52, none of Muhammad's widows were permitted to marry again. Aisha was Muhammad's child bride (married at age 5 to Muhammad, he was sexually intimate with her but did not have vaginal sex with her until she reached the age of 9 years. He was 52 years old.) She claims that she was holding him as he passed away. No one else was allowed access to him. Even when he asked someone to write down his last words and testament, the men bickered and argued among themselves and could not produce even one pen to record a dying man's wishes. They had already begun bickering among themselves until finally Muhammad sent them all out of the room so he could die in peace. As soon as Aisha and her father determined that Muhammad was dead, Abu Bakr went rushing to the mosque next door and announced himself the new leader of Islam and his change of plans for how Islam would now be run.

Safiyah noted that although everyone rushed to pray, not one person shed a tear at Muhammad's death.

The Shias believe that Aisha and her father, Abu Bakr, turned against Muhammad and were waiting for the chance to kill him and take everything, and indeed that may be what happened. A lecture by Shaykh Yasser Al-Habib (2007-Tehran) –

> 'Prophet Muhammad was poisoned by his two wives Ayesha and Hafsa, at the order of their fathers Abu Bakr and Omar.'

Who killed Muhammad is the cause of the rift between Sunnis and Shias to this day.

There are obvious hints in the Quran and Hadith that all was not well in Muhammad's household. Aisha and Muhammad sometimes fought openly. She doubted the truthfulness of his revelations on several occasions, most notably when Allah suddenly and conveniently allowed him to have sex with slave girls and relatives that he lusted for. This belies the apologists claiming that he only wed so many wives in order to maintain alliances with neighboring tribes.

On at least one occasion he struck Aisha in the chest, causing her great pain- However, she was not afraid to talk back occasionally. Muhammad would smile and say, "She is the daughter of Abu Bakr!" On at least one occasion, the Prophet's wives, led by Aisha and Hafsa, asked him for money for necessities but he denied them. Aisha openly challenged Muhammad when he swore the angel Gabriel gave him special dispensation to commit adulterous and sexual acts not permitted to others in the Quran. (Quran, S. 33:50 Pickthall) Aisha (and the other wives) were upset when Muhammad was caught lying and cheating with slave girls in his wife's bed (33:30/33:50) - Aisha appeared jealous toward the other wives, especially the beautiful Safiyah, two years older than her, whom she called 'that Jewess'(Sahih Muslim vol.2 no.3453 p.748.) Muhammad accused Aisha of adultery. (Surah 24:4, 24:11) By accusing her of lying and adultery, although he later patched

things up, he brought shame and dishonor to Abu Bakr and suspicion upon Aisha. Aisha and other wives doubted Muhammad's visions and chats with Gabriel, primarily because Muhammad frequently contradicted himself, or changed ideas midway. Even Muhammad expressed doubts about real visions verses imaginary visions. His 'ascension' consisted of a dream about a flight on a beast that was part horse, part bird, and part woman. The beast was named Buraq. (President Barak Obama's name is a different spelling of this same word.)

Muhammad was turning away from his wives. They were criticizing him severely. He began spending more time with his daughter Fatima and her family. Aisha and Abu Bakr feared losing power and control to Muhammad's family.

Muhammad was losing trust in his 'Companions' including Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Talha and Saad bin abi Waqas, the very people who seized power and wealth when Muhammad died. The hostilities among them were becoming open and obvious. Shortly after he got in to trouble having sex with the slave girl, and his refusal to provide adequately for his wives, they were so angry and disillusioned with his behavior that Muhammad threatened to divorce Aisha and Hafsa (Surat At-Tahrīm 66:1- 'O Prophet! Why holdest thou to be forbidden that which Allah has made lawful to thee?'). These suggest some additional motives for his death.

From his death-bed, Muhammad continued to issue orders and curse Christians and Jews. The next four hadiths reveal some of his anguished and fearful state of mind on his death bed. For example, Sahih Bukhari 4:56:660-5:59:716, Muhammad said as he lay dying-

> 'Allah's damnation be on the Jews and the Christians who made the graves of their prophets objects of worship.'

He asked for someone to fetch writing materials so his last wishes would be known, but instead the men in the room refused, stalled, made excuses, and argued among themselves, until they vexed the dying man so much that he sent them away. (Sahih Bukhari 1.114) Aisha and Abu Bakr maintained full control over Muhammad's death. Muhammad died alone with Aisha. His last wishes were never know or written down. We have only Aisha's version of events. He was buried in the place of his death- right in the midst of Aisha's living quarters - although the mosque and family graveyard were just steps away. This justified her immediate move away from these quarters, away from other wives and slaves. At the moment that Muhammad died, Abu Bakr went immediately to the mosque and spoke to the gathering crowd. He told them he would take charge of the Muslim community and all its funds and real estate holdings. Abu Bakr then began reciting hadiths (sayings of Muhammad) that no one had ever heard before, but began repeating as though fact. (Sura 3:144). When he was questioned, he told others to sit down and be quiet.

Abu Bakr grabbed everything Muhammad possessed, every shekel, every jewel, every sword, every garment, every house and village and field, every date palm and cow and camel, claiming these were for the further propagation of Islam. (Kitab al-Tabaqat al-Kabir, Book of the Major Classes, Volume 2, by Ibn Sa'd pages 391–394). All the wives objected, and asked for their legal inheritance as widows. Abu Bakr refused. He threatened brutal war against anyone who refused to donate taxes to him. Aisha was 18 years old when Muhammad died. She apparently never went to school and had no education or experience beyond the small compound where she and the wives had lived. She founded a madrassa in one of the rooms in her grand new home; the purpose was to practice Islam, much as madrassas today, not to further anyone's education in any other way.

She was the only woman with whom Muhammad received revelations. Yet she herself often doubted they were real, from God-She described these moments as resembling epileptic fits. She stated, 'Magic was worked on Allah's Apostle so that he used to think he was having sexual relations with his wives while he actually had not.' (Sahih Buhkari Volume 7, Book 71, Number 660) Once he was dead, she was not afraid to speak out and present Muhammad in a less than favorable or exemplary light.

Although she herself was never given a formal education and could not read or write, Aisha was one of the primary creators of the Quran that is in use today. She was present through the reigns of at least the first four caliphs after Muhammad's death. She is among the four people who provided more than two thousand hadiths, the others being Abu Hurairah, Abdullah ibn Umar, and Anas ibn Malik.

She took on an aura of importance and grandeur. She now had wealth and power while the other wives suffered in poverty directly because of Aisha and her father. She had to be consulted by anyone seeking information about the meaning of Islam or the life of Muhammad. She expressed herself as a role model to women, which can also be seen within some traditions attributed to her. Aysha was the only virgin of all Mohammed's wives and she was very proud of it. Her virginity mattered to her and was considered by her as a reason why she was superior to the other wives. Obviously she learned from Muhammad, who was obsessed with virginity, that virgins are the best, which explains why she narrated many hadiths that reflected her pride of her virginity. The Quran is thus based primarily on the mental meanderings of a young teenage girl with no education and little experience of life outside Muhammad's harem.

She would not aid Safiyah or Fatima in their requests for their lawful inheritance from Muhammad. The oasis of Khyber that had been home to Safiyah was denied her and given instead to Fatima. Yet after the death of Muhammad; it was Aisha and her father Abu Bakr who retained control of the

wealth produced by Khyber. Aisha led a war called the Battle of the Camel when she was 45 years old, in which Safiyah sided against her.

Those who supported Abu Bakr became Sunni Muslims. Those who supported Fatima, Ali and their sons became Shia Muslims. Shias believe that Aisha had an active role in killing Muhammad, probably in complicity with Abu Bakr. Shias have such intense hatred and mistrust for Abu Bakr and Aisha that they celebrate her death every year by reciting chants to Allah to send her to hell.

Abu Bakr fought off the attempts of Fatima to claim personal inheritance from her father's ownership of an orchard at Fedak and income from Khyber, where Safiyah had been captured. This turned nasty and resulted in physical violence against Muhammad's daughter. Shias believe that Abu Bakr confiscated the estate of Fadak from Ali and Fatima as jealous revenge. Fatima was the daughter of Muhammad, wife of Ali, mother of Hassan and Hussain (Al-Hussain ibn Ali ibn Abi Talib, Muhammad's grandson) and one of the five members of Ahl al-Bayt (People of the House of Muhammad). She became the object of great veneration by all Muslims because she lived closest to her father and supported him in his difficulties and because of historical importance of her husband and her two sons, and that she is the only member of Muhammad's family that gave him descendants. She died a few months after her father.

Shias maintain that Fatima died as a result of injuries sustained after her house was raided by Umar ibn al-Khattab (who took power after Abu Bakr died) who then set fire to her home. As she valiantly tried to prevent their entry into her home, the door was slammed against her and the men pushed with all their might, pinning her against the wall and cracking her rib-cage whilst she was pregnant. She miscarried the child then died 3 months later from the injuries. Note that this accident also has been affirmed by the Sufi (nagina mosque order) scholar Maulana Shibli's famous book Al-Farook, but he has described the other reasons for this incident as well. Umar not only murdered her unborn child, a boy she named Mohsen, but indirectly murdered Fatima, the result of slamming a pregnant woman against the wall with a door. She survived her father Muhammad by only a few short months. She had two sons and two daughters.

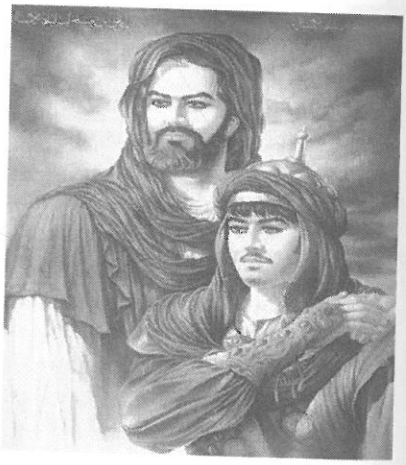
She had been married for ten years, and may have been about 25 years old when she died, although her age is not well documented. She was by all accounts like her mother Khadija-pious, beautiful, and intelligent, a much loved wife and mother. Fatima was loyal to her father. Muhammad obviously loved her very much, and doted on his grandchildren. He had a son, Ibrahim, by Maria who was not his wife, but the child sex-slave given to him as a gift from Egypt. She was described as very young, 'white' and beautiful. Ibrahim died young.

As she lay dying, Fatima did not want Abu Bakr or enemies of her husband to be at her burial. Ali and her sons buried her secretly at night in the jannatu 'l-Baqi `cemetery in Medina. The exact location of her grave was never discovered. Fatima's descendants are given the title Sayyids (meaning lord or sir) and Sharif (meaning noble). They are highly regarded to this day by both Sunni and Shia, although Shias place much more emphasis and value on the distinction. This is the counterpart to desposyni of Jesus. She is considered to be the Muslim counterpart to the Christian Mary, mother of Jesus; indeed, one of her names is Maryam al-Kubrá, or 'the greater Mary'. The Sayyids have been participating in several DNA-genealogy studies. (Sayyids and Qurayshi-Hashimite DNA is predominantly Y chromosome Haplogroup J1) and are ardent supporters of the DNA Project at Roza Bal.

Abu Bakr imposed a 100 percent estate tax on the deceased Muhammad's wealth and appropriated it "for the needs of the burgeoning caliphate." The Quran, Sura 57 ("Iron") Verse 11 says "Who is he that will lend a generous loan to God?" (meaning to donate to Abu Bakr as new self-appointed leader of the Muslims). The verse continues by assuring that Allah will "double" repayment to the lender. Heavenly rewards promised to those who give their money toward the military victory of Islam are frequent throughout the Quran. Abu Bakr felt that Muhammad and Islam would not have got started without the sacrifices he personally made to Muhammad, and he wanted payback. Islam was his now.

The money grab/inheritance dispute between Abu Bakr on one side and Fatima and Ali on the other would result in the Sunni-Shia split that continues to this day.

All the wives except Aisha protested bitterly about Abu Bakr, but without success. Muhammad had forbidden his wives to marry anyone else after his death. The women were left with what little they possessed at his death and this had to last the rest of their lives. Aisha and some of the wives did receive a pension for life, but it is unclear if this was doled out by Aisha or Abu Bakr, or if it was even enough to sustain some of them above the poverty level. We know almost nothing about the fate of the remaining wives.



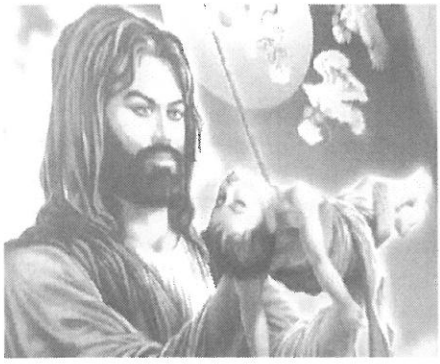
MURDER OF HUSSAIN

Immediately after his death, Mohammad's companions started feuding over power, at times with swords used against

Muhammad's family and against one another. At first Ali tried to lead the Muslims, but this was quickly snuffed out by Abu Bakr, Umar, and Uthman, the next three leaders.

One grandchild, Hasan, died of poisoning at age 47. Hussain was Muhammad's other grandson and youngest son of Ali. Hussain tried to lead the early Muslims, and did indeed succeed for a brief time. Hussain refused to pay homage or recognize Muawiya's son as successor.

Instead Hussain fled to Mecca, where he was asked to lead the Shias (those living in present-day Iraq) in a revolt. At Karbala (Iraq) Hussain's band of 200 men, women, and children were cut down by 4,000 Umayyad troops, Muslims followers of his grandfather's religion, Islam. This was the Battle of Karbala on 10 October 680. It wasn't a real battle. It was a debauchery. It was 4,000 (this number varies widely-some say 10,000, some say 40,000) armed Muslim men against less than 200 rag-tag soldiers, civilian men, women, and children including Muhammad's great grandsons, Qasim and Abdullah. Only Hasan the youngest of four great grandsons present nearby survived that day.



It was not a quick death for any of them. Hussain met with a horrific death, covered in blood from 33 stab wounds and 34 blows. He was holding his infant son (Muhammad's great grandson) in his arms pleading for water for the child when someone killed the infant with a well-aimed arrow.

Arrows were shot into his horse. The horse, streaming with blood from the arrows, is an easily recognized symbol in scenes from that day.

All the dead were beheaded and desecrated, not buried, but left to rot on the sand. Hussain's clothes, shoes and sword were removed from his body as booty. His head was mounted on a lance and taken away. Hussain's body is buried in Karbala., near the site of his death. His head is said to have been returned from Damascus and interred with his body years later.

The few wives and children who survived were taken as prisoners and put into slavery. The violence that Muhammad lived by and the suffering he brought to others came back to haunt his own family for generations.

Hussain's grave became the most visited place of Ziyarat for Shias. The Imam Hussain Shrine was later built over his grave.[342] In 850 Abbasid caliph al-Mutawakkil, a leader of the Muslim community destroyed this shrine in order to stop Shia pilgrimages. It is a holy site for Shia Muslims.[343]Shia Islam is the official State religion of Iran.

Even a non-religious foreign observer cannot fail to be moved by the injustices against Muhammad's descendants, and the sheer intensity of faith being demonstrated by Shias today, both men and women. Shias may be mourning the death of Ali Hussein centuries ago, but what they are also doing is cementing an identity that is reinforced year after year through their blood-letting and painful rituals.



The Shias of Murree were the best supporters in Pakistan of the DNA research into graves of Mother Mary and Joseph. I sometimes went to mosques with my Shia friends, at other times I went to mosques with Sunnis and each would express disapproval of the other. Shias are the second largest denomination of Islam, Sunnis being the first.

Most of the narratives I have presented here are either from hadiths or from the Quran. There is also ample information available from Christian sources of the era. [344]However, Sunnis retain one set of Hadith, Shias another, and also different versions about events I have written here. They argue with me and among themselves, each feeling they are more right and others are wrong.

They will not agree that I have quoted the right sources for their point of view. Hadiths are regarded by traditional Islamic schools of jurisprudence as important tools for understanding the Quran and Sharia Law. Hadiths were evaluated and gathered into large collections during the 8th and 9th centuries combined with the vast amount of information that Abu Bakr and Aisha contributed. Their reliability is uncertain in most cases because of their interest in keeping the wealth of Muhammad away from his heirs and widows. These works are referred to in matters of Islamic law and history to this day.

THE QURAN

We are never sure what is true and what is fabricated by Muslim historians. Obviously, attempts have been made to make Muhammad appear free of

blame or guilt for his actions. Some of the Quran was written down during the life time of the Prophet under his own supervision by the 'Revelation scribes' hired specifically to write for him. Scribes, or 'sech' in ancient Egypt, were paid for each line they wrote, each line was about the same size as average book page today. At first quotes of Muhammad were not compiled in book form but as notes and memos written on different materials-on pieces of cloth, leather, bones, and stones by different people over 23 years. Much was simply quoted from memory by Muhammad's companions. These quotes and notes were first gathered during the reign of Abu Bakr, but this was not yet the final form we know today. If Abu Bakr missed some information, or interpreted it wrong, or if someone quoted Muhammad wrong, or embellished things, then these errors were passed down to the third caliph, Uthman, twenty years after the death of Muhammad. He compiled the final version in use today. When Muslims say it is unchanged, they can only be referring to the Uthman version in use today. For every hadith written by someone, there are historical contradictions made by others. In Bukhari, Volume 6, Book LXI, Number 558, we realize that even Muhammad forgot some of his own revelations, and there were different versions of his quotes and ideas in circulation even during his lifetime. Uthman, the third Caliph, ordered that all existing and previous versions be burned and destroyed so that everyone was using the same version, his. There were seven versions of the Quran in use during his lifetime. These were written in several Arabic dialects. Although the Quran was supposedly memorized and the same recited by everyone, memories were fallible, and mistakes and changes were made. Muhammad noted this even during his own lifetime.



'The legacy of these early debacles is such that even today, power is rarely handed over in the Muslim world without bloodshed. Muslims killed Muhammad's family, destroyed Medina, and killed Muhammad's companions. They lied, stole, deceived each other, and killed each other. There was no real spiritual aim to all of this. How Muslims should govern and who should govern them were the questions that tore the community apart after Muhammad's death and have lasted for 1400 years. There is something seriously wrong with Islam when the earliest of followers so quickly became murderers and despots. Where were the best teachings of the Quran? Where were Muhammad's injunctions? Why are they so easily cast aside? These are questions that Muslims must still come to terms with in the modern world of today.' Source: Answering Islam.org.

There is also this to consider. After the death of Muhammad, the next three rulers of Islam were arch enemies of Muhammad, and set against any of

Muhammad's heirs taking over the caliphate that was making them so rich. First Abu Bakr, who died just two years after Muhammad, then Umar, then Uthman, who compiled the final Quran, were all greedy and deceitful leaders who placed their own interests and family at the head of Islam, even to the point of robbing Muhammad's family of their barest necessities. Often they had been openly opposed to Muhammad. Aisha and her father Abu Bakr wrote her into the Quran and Hadiths as the "mother" and influential creator of early Islam. The word "Aisha" appears 1373 time(s) in 952 hadith(s) in the Bukhari translation.

-The name of Issa/Jesus appears 25 times in the Quran and 1,798 times in the Contemporary English Bible -Abraham appears 69 times in the Quran -Yusuf (Joseph) 27 times -Moses (mentioned the most in the Quran) 136 times - Mother Mary 34 times. Muhammad appears only 5 times in the entire Quran (and once as Ahmad).

Uthman was especially greedy and inept, and he is the one who compiled (with Aisha and Abu Bakr as primary sources) the final edition of the Quran in 652 CE, when he already 72 years old. Although Muhammad's son-in-law Ali was still alive (he died in 661 at Kafu) and had contributed to information in the Quran, Uthman held all the power, and went to great lengths to suppress Muhammad and his family. He took all the Muslim community's assets for his personal and family needs including wells, pastures, and taxes (see alislam.org) It was insured that none of Muhammad's family would rule Islam or control the wealth now pouring in to them through taxes and other sources. Basically, both then and now, it's every man for himself...what you seize through war is yours by right of might.

How could the greedy enemies of Muhammad be expected to be fair or impartial when compiling the Quran? Aisha and Abu Bakr, based on their behavior after Muhammad's death, would be the worse choices for impartiality. It is quite possible that the way his enemies compiled the Quran was intentionally incriminating, their final and deliberate act of mischief and contempt against Muhammad, their revenge for years of real and perceived mistrust, jealousies, greed and deceits. Even the injunction to all Muslims that no other prophet will come after Muhammad, appears as a simple ruse added by the compilers to guarantee that all income and taxes would continue to flow into their coffers and not slip away in support of any other religion.

Non-Muslims see the critical errors in the Quran, the inconsistencies, and Muhammad's life as a poor role-model for piety and decency, a poor role model for anyone claiming to be a prophet of God.

There are some beautiful passages inserted into the Quran. It is apparent that these were copied from earlier, well-known Roman, Greek, and Biblical writings that the scribes were well familiar with. After his death, Aisha also surrounded herself with scribes and secretaries as Muhammad had done,

because she could not read or write. The reason that much of the Quran mimics the Bible because Christian scribes made major contributions to the Quran. One scribe was `Abdullah Ibn Sa'd Ibn Abi Sarh.

Eventually Sarh, like other scribes, left Muhammad and Islam in disgust and disbelief, knowing it could not be from God if a mere scribe could repeatedly change God's words or ideas. Later, after the conquest of Mecca, Muhammad ordered Sarh's death for leaving Islam and for exposing the truth about Muhammad's revelations.[345] There are 42 additional incidents of Muhammad directly involved in non-military murders, including women and a blind Jew who Muhammad blamed for throwing dust in his face.[346]

Modern Islam is controlled by Sunni Muslims who get huge global financing from the oil-rich Saudi family of Wahab-Salafis. What we see happening today is the reflection of their ambitions and plans for world domination, and they have unlimited wealth to throw into their plans. They, like Muhammad, Abu Bakr and Uthman, believe the methods justified the means.

The world is compelled to ask the question, "Is Islam a true religion, or is it really a political war machine?'



Battlefield at Karbala.-Death and dismembering of Hussain in the presence of thousands of soldiers and of Muhammad's family. His head was carried away on a spear, desecrated, hidden several times from worshippers.

IS ISLAM A RELIGION?

Some of the most spiritual and religious people I know are Muslims. I believe this aspect of their character is genuine, this sense of spirituality would not change regardless what religion they followed. Feeling spirituality is not the same as following a religion.

Rebecca Bynum wrote a book titled, '*Allah is Dead*' where she argues why Islam is *not* a religion, and we should neither fear it nor revere it. (New English Review Press; First edition, February 1, 2011) It was written to shake things up, and push the reader outside of his comfort zone, not to placate Muslims or make excuses for Islam. Her concern is that by classifying Islam as a religion and giving it the tax exempt status, we are unwittingly supporting a belief system that aims to destroy us. Global Politician, 4 March 2011, wrote-

> 'This author says Islam is much closer to ideologies such as material determinism, nihilism and even social Darwinism than it is to either Christianity or Judaism. In fact there are many similarities between Islam and Nazism and Marxism. All these three ideologies are totalitarian and believe ends justify the means. The problem with Islam is not because it is a religion. People can believe in what they want to believe. The problem with Islam is with its political dimension. Islam wants to take over the world through Jihad. Jihad has only two aspects – deception and terror. Islam has declared a war on Mankind. We must fight it. Islam must be destroyed not because it is a religion but because it aims to subdue us with terror.
>
> Instead of trying to declassify Islam as a religion, we can easily ban its objectives. We can ban the Sharia and we can ban preaching most of the Quran because it incites hate and violence.
>
> Islam is a chameleon system of belief. It is political but it operates as religion. It is religion but it has political goal. It intrudes in personal lives of all living beings, not just its believers. Even dogs and pigs are not spared from its onslaught.
>
> We cannot attack Islam as a religion but we can attack it as a political system that is at odds with our constitution and at war with our system of government.
>
> There is however, one thing that all religions share and that is the Golden Rule. Virtually all religions, no matter how diverse they are, have at their core the belief that one should treat others as one wishes to be treated. This Golden Rule is absent in Islam. In this sense Islam can be compared to KKK, Nazism and other racist supremacist groups. We can and should ban Islam because of this.

It may take many more years for events to run their course, and for Islam to come to an inevitable end, but it must come. Such violence cannot be justified or sustained. It is holding the whole world back.

So much 'revisionism' and clever marketing has been going on the past few years, it is hard for Muslims to perceive anything but good in their religion.

Their denial of the harsh realities of the Quran is similar to the Negationism of the Holocaust. In the first part of the book, *Negationism in India: Concealing the Record of Islam* (1992) by Koenraad Elst, he discusses Negationism and Holocaust denial in Europe and Russia. He writes that Holocaust deniers in Europe often keep all evidence out of view or deny the existence of such evidence. Elst also remarks that Negationism of the Holocaust is not accepted in the West, and negationists are even prosecuted in some countries. Elst claims that historians of the Aligarh school (e.g. Irfan Habib) or Indian Marxists (e.g. Romila Thapar) have resorted to history rewriting: "Therefore, in 1982 the National Council of Educational Research and Training issued a directive for the rewriting of schoolbooks. Among other things, it stipulated that: "Characterization of the medieval period as a time of conflict between Hindus and Muslims is forbidden." Under Marxist pressure, Negationism has become India's official policy." Elst compares the negationists in India with the negationists in Europe-[347]

> 'The number of victims of this persecution surpasses that of the Nazi crimes. The Islamic reports on the massacres of Hindus, destruction of Hindu temples, the abduction of Hindu women and forced conversions, invariably express great glee and pride. In my study of the Ayodiya controversy, I noticed that the frequent attempts to conceal or deny inconvenient evidence were an integral part of a larger effort to rewrite India's history and to whitewash Islam. It struck me that this effort to deny the unpleasant facts of Islam's destructive role in Indian history is similar to the attempts by some European writers to deny the Nazi holocaust. European negationists applaud Hitler's reign and deny its horrors. Indian negationists eulogize Islamic rule and deny its million fold murders and the catastrophe it wrought in Indian cultural, political and religious life.'

Aggression, in its broadest sense, is behavior, or a disposition, that is forceful, hostile or attacking. It may occur either in retaliation or without provocation. Aggression is an intention to cause harm, or an act intended to increase relative social dominance.

Behaviors like aggression may be partially learned by watching and imitating the behavior of others. The frequency of physical aggression in humans peaks at around 2–3 years of age. It then declines gradually as children learn to control their impulses and direct their behavior towards teamwork and cooperation- to become more altruistic. Aggression among adults is no longer the accepted norm.

Fear (survival)-induced pre-emptive aggression- is a human reaction to injustices that are perceived to threaten survival. It is often the root of the unthinkable brutality and injustice perpetuated by human beings. It may occur at any time, even in situations that appear to be calm and under control. Injustices are often perceived as posing a threat to survival, "fear (survival)-induced pre-emptive aggression" will result in individuals taking whatever action necessary to be free from that threat.

Nayef Al-Rodhan (Neurosurgeon-Geostrategist, Oxford University) said-

> 'Humans' strong tendency towards "fear (survival)-induced pre-emptive aggression" means that situations of anarchy or near anarchy should be prevented at all costs. This is because anarchy provokes fear, which in turn results in aggression, brutality, and injustice. Even in non-anarchic situations, survival instincts and fear can be very powerful forces, and they may be incited instantaneously. "Fear (survival)-induced pre-emptive aggression" is one of the key factors that may push naturally amoral humans to behave in immoral ways.'
> [*Emotionality of States and Symbiotic Realism.*]

According to UNESCO, "Violence begins in the mind." It must, therefore, be uprooted from the mind itself. This goes directly to the root cause of terrorism. Maulana Wahiduddin Khan said-

> 'Peace is not prevalent in the world because people the world over are acting intolerantly and indulging in acts of violence, saying, "Give us justice, then peace will ensue." But when people, ostensibly seeking justice, stoop to violence, peace can never prevail. Peace is always desirable for its own sake, and every other desirable state comes after peace, not along with it.'

The starting point is the re-engineering of minds of individuals. Any actions or rhetoric that incites violence, fear, or revenge are not acceptable. We cannot carry these aggressive reactions and behaviors into life in Space colonies. We have to rid ourselves of them now or we will fail and perish right here on earth, squabbling among ourselves until our own extinction overtakes us. We go nowhere. We perish as the result of wasting our time and resources to deal with violence. Whatever allure the Space Age has for us dies with us and our potential may never be reached. We will never know what places Jesus went to prepare for us 'out there.'

The Ten Commandments may be an important prelude to inter-galactic peace and cooperation. Rules that apply universally- to Elohim and other life in the universe- must apply to us as well. That includes Muslims. Until they realize this, they are dooming us all.

The passion we feel when expressing our religion is not the result of something passed directly from the religion to us. It is something within ourselves that is being expressed. The term spirit means "animating or vital principle in man and animals." It is derived from the Old French 'espirit'- which comes

from the Latin word spiritus- "soul, courage, vigor, breath. We can *choose* to be Buddhist, Muslim, Catholic, Hindu, or an atheist. Our soul awareness will not be diminished by these choices. This compels us to examine what religion we find ourselves practicing, and why.

'Religious conversion is the experience of one or more of the following phenomena. At the fundamental level conversion is the awakening of religious knowledge or understanding within a human being who had previously no belief in or concern with religious or spiritual matters. This awakening to moral and spiritual realities thus precedes a transformation of lifestyle and thought patterns often taking place over a long period of time and requiring a significant level of effort and commitment as described in the spiritual teachings of the world's great religions. This transformation is the first and basic meaning of religious conversion. Religious conversion "marks a transformation of religious identity and is symbolized by special rituals." People [348]convert to a different religion for various reasons, including: active conversion by free choice due to a change in beliefs, secondary conversion, deathbed conversion, conversion for convenience marital conversion, and forced conversion.

Unlike all other religions on earth, if a Muslim wanted to leave Islam, it could be very difficult, even life-threatening. This is the advice given by former Muslims. The first emphasis is on personal safety. Don't tell anyone of your decision, not mothers, fathers, not even best friends. Don't go to a mosque anymore. Simply end it if you can.

One of the most frequently asked questions, when someone decides to leave Islam is- what should they do now? The answer is nothing. You don't have to do anything to leave Islam. Islam is a belief, like being a Democrat or a theosophist. Once you stop believing you are no longer a Muslim. There are no rituals to perform and no membership cards to sign. The bondage of Islam is mental. Once you break that bondage you are free.

Someone who left Islam went to a church and got baptized. He also changed his name from Hussein to Cyrus. I asked whether he is a Christian. He said no, but that he needed to do this little ceremony to make it official, at least in his own mind, that he is not a Muslim anymore.

When you leave Islam, don't pay the zakat. Zakat finances Islamic jihad. This so called charity is never used for charity. It is used to build mosques and madrasahs and to promote Islam. Even if it is used to build orphanages, the idea is always to raise children as fanatical Muslims and soldiers of Allah. The most vicious and the most inhumane protectors of the mullahs in Iran are known as basijis. They are mostly children, raised to be dangerous killers.

You need support, but unfortunately this is hard to get when you live in an Islamic country. I suggest you join an online community of apostates. You can find many people in your situation. Those who have left Islam can share their experiences with you. If you live in a non-Muslim country, particularly

in a European or American country, there are organizations that can provide temporary shelter for those people whose lives are in danger. Young women particularly are in danger, and face the most serious hardships if they attempt to leave Islam, even in modern European and American locations. It doesn't matter how free or open your country's society is: the law of Islam recognizes no national borders. Muslims don't' care whether you practice Islam or not. But they do care that you stay a Muslim, even if it is by name. Even the least practicing Muslim can turn violent if you tell him you no longer believe in Islam. Also don't go to the mosque. Your attendance only strengthens Islam in the same way that the attendance of ordinary Germans in Hitler's rallies made him stronger. If more people don't give their support to Islam, it will gradually become less relevant.

Should you join another religion?

This is a very personal choice that only you can make. Many apostates of Islam choose to remain irreligious. Some still believe in God and some don't and some become agnostic. Others join a different faith. Each person has a different need and so are our choices. Whatever you do, don't join another fanatical faith. You don't want to come out of the frying pan to fall into the fire. Follow your reason. Source: Dr. Ali Sina, 'Refuge from Islam'.freedomdefence.com

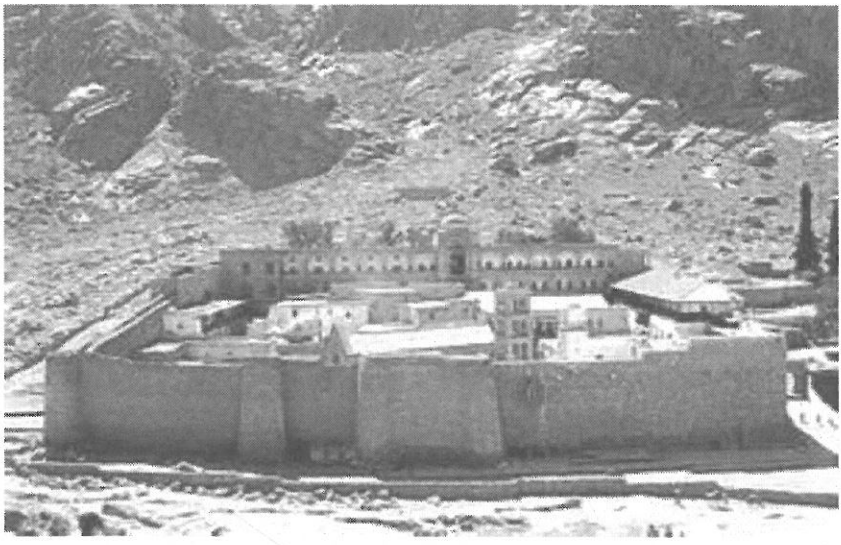
The Achtiname of Muhammad, also known as the Covenant or (Holy) Testament (Testamentum) of Muhammad, is a document or ahdname which is a charter or writ ratified by Muhammad granting protection and other privileges to the monks of Saint Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai. It is sealed with an imprint representing Muhammad's hand. According to Islamic tradition, Mohammad frequented the monastery and had great relationships and discussions with the Sinai fathers. The document claims that the Prophet (570-633) had personally granted a charter in the second year of the Hegira, corresponding to AD 626, the rights and privileges to all Christians "far and near". It consists of several clauses on such topics as the protection of Christians living under Islamic rule as well as pilgrims on their way to monasteries, freedom of worship and movement, freedom to appoint their own judges and to own and maintain their property, emption from military service and taxes, and the right to protection in war.

The original ahtiname, or order of protection, is in the Topkapi palace museum, and several certified historical copies are displayed in other locations. It states-

> "This is a message from Muhammad ibn Abdullah (Prophet Muhammad) as a covenant to those who adopt Christianity, near and far, we are with them. Verily I, the servants, the helpers, and my followers defend them, because Christians are my citizens; and by God! I hold out against anything that displeases them. No compulsion is to be on them. Neither are their judges to be removed from their jobs nor their monks from their monasteries. No one is to destroy a house of their

religion, to damage it, or to carry anything from it to the Muslims' houses. Should anyone take any of these, he would spoil God's covenant and disobey His Prophet. Verily, they are my allies and have my secure charter against all that they hate. No one is to force them to travel or to oblige them to fight. The Muslims are to fight for them. If a female Christian is married to a Muslim, it is not to take place without her approval. She is not to be prevented from visiting her church to pray. Their churches are to be respected. They are neither to be prevented from repairing them nor the sacredness of their covenants. No one of the nation (Muslims) is to disobey the covenant till the Last Day (end of the world)."

In 2012 and again in 2014, Egyptian Army General Ahmed Ragai Attiya called for the total destruction of the monastery and expelling the monks (all Greek Orthodox) from the land.[349]



ST. CATHERINE'S MONASTERY, Egypt, the original location of the document, — is the oldest functioning monastery in the world. The monastery marks the spot where Moses saw the burning bush and talked to God. Hidden high in the desert mountains, guarded for centuries by monks and Bedouin tribesmen, this fortress sanctuary was once as remote as any place on Earth could be. Violence sweeping across Egypt's northern Sinai Peninsula makes this a very dangerous place to visit now. The Egyptian government closed St. Catherine's Monastery to visitors as a precaution. A few scholar monks and some local Bedouins remain quietly in the area hoping to protect the site.



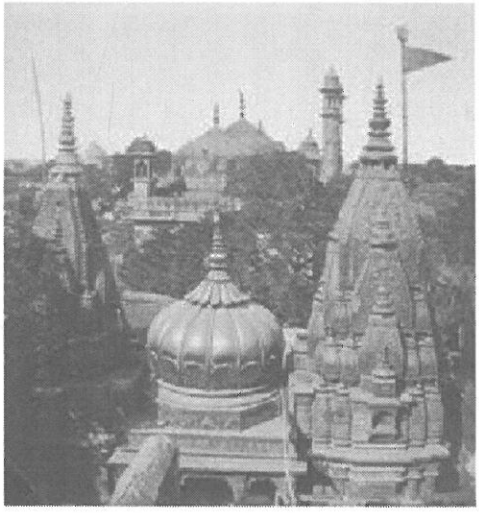
Bringing Joseph's body out of Egypt to be buried in Sechem. 'And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Sechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Sechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.' Joshua 24:32



Israel, tomb of Joseph the Patriarch, Sechem, Nablus. Here is where Jews placed Joseph's remains. Repeatedly desecrated and destroyed by Palestinians. Photo is of another attack on the tomb in 2002.



Jewish Palestine, Rachel's tomb in 1880, before a wall was built around it to protect it from repeated Palestinian attacks.



Hindu India, Kai Vashi Temple, built in 490 AD, one of the most important places of worship for Hindus, destroyed by Muhammad Ghori in 1194, who built a mosque on the site. Repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt by Muslims or Hindus since then. Epigraphic and literary evidence was left everywhere attesting to the rape, torture, slavery and destruction to emulate the Prophet Muhammad.



Christian site, Kosovo- Saint Cosma Monastery built in 1327, destroyed in 2002, and also the destroyed Church of Saint Nicholas. More than 75 churches were destroyed in this region in a ten year period, and more than 200 priests were murdered by Muslim insurgents.



Tanzania. March 14, 2012 Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulaziz AlShaikh declared a fatwa 'to destroy all the churches.' He cited Prophet Muhammad's deathbed statements that there were not to be two religions in the Arab Peninsula, interpreted to mean that only Islam should be there. More than 25 churches were destroyed in one day, and dozens of Christians killed.



Garissa, Kenya Feb.2013. One of numerous Islamic suicide bomber attacks-this time at a primary school and a hotel causing many deaths and injuries. From January to June 2013 - average 22 Islamic attacks per month worldwide.
Source>en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_terrorist_incidents,_January-June_2013



Buddhist Bangladesh. September 2012, a mob torched and vandalized an entire village of Buddhists in Cox Bazaar Ramu Upazila. According to the Assyrian News Agency (7-12-2011) Muslims killed more than 5,000 Buddhists in southern Thailand, where separatists are demanding Buddhists give up their land to create a new Muslim state.



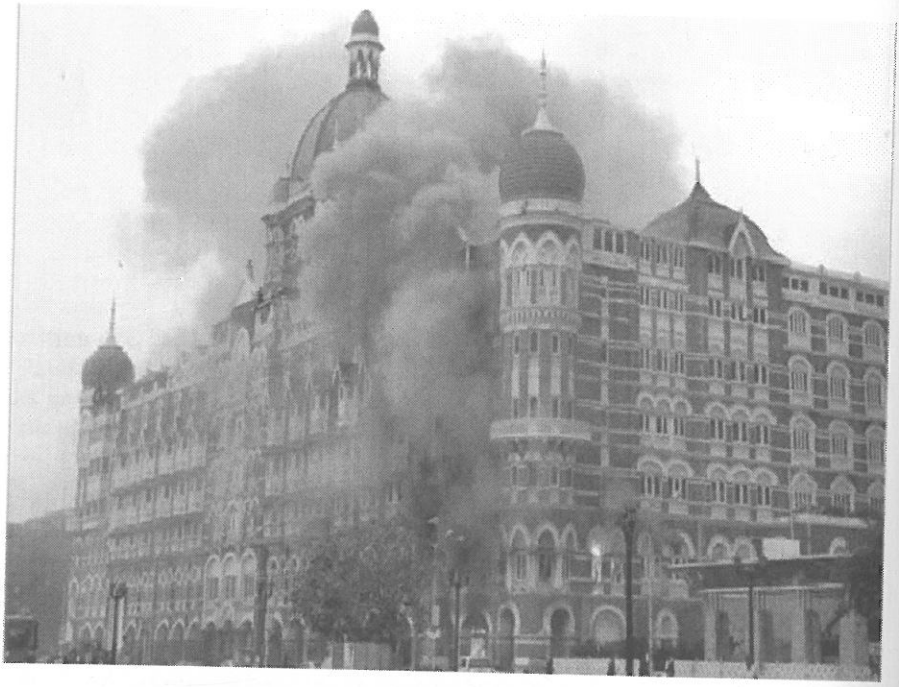
Christian site, Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity, birthplace of Jesus, Attacked by Palestinians on April 2, 2002. They occupied the Church for 39 days, held 200 nuns and priests hostage, destroyed ancient artifacts and Bibles, and defecated on the alter.



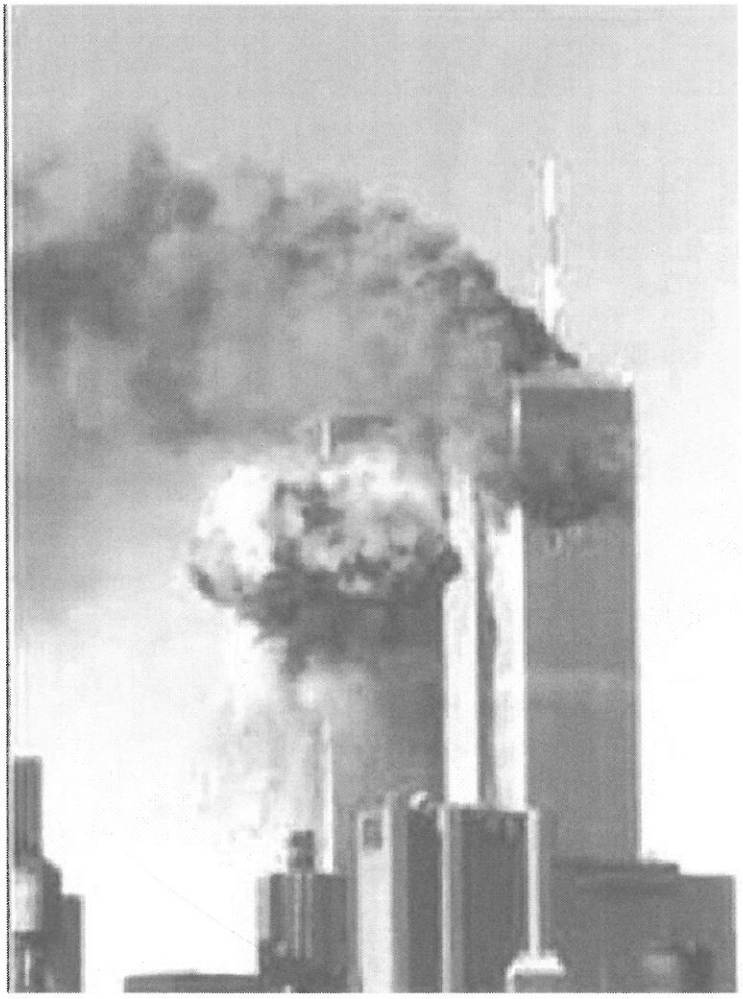
Bali, Indonesia, October 12, 2002. 202 tourists killed, mostly Australians. The Australian Embassy in Jakarta was also bombed in 2004, followed by the Bali bombings of 2005, killing more than 20 and seriously injuring more than 100 people. Jeemah Islamiyah (associated with Al Quaida) said, "We decided to settle accounts with Australia, one of the worse enemies of God and Islam. A Mujahedeen has succeeded in carrying out this attack, and there will be many others. We advise Australians to leave or we will transform this place into your cemetery.'



Arab Spring (photo taken in Syria, June 2013 after chemical attacks by the Islamic Assad Government against its own people for fighting for freedom from dictatorship) began as a series of protests and uprisings in the Middle East that began with unrest in Tunisia in late 2010. The Arab Spring has brought down regimes in several Arab countries, sparked mass violence in others as a result of massive demand for leadership change, economic improvement, political liberties and so on. However, Islamic extremists such as the Muslim Brotherhood have reduced the movement for democracy into a debacle. The implications include the spread and intensification of violence and instability in North Africa and the Middle East. There will be spread of weapons and terrorist groups have taken advantage of the circumstances. By September 2013, death toll exceeded 100,000 civilians just in Syria. Historic sites important to all faiths are being indiscriminately destroyed.



The 2011 Mumbai bombings were a series of three coordinated explosions leaving 26 dead and 130 seriously wounded. India is attacked by Muslim terrorists about 80 times per year, and Israel endures 20 times more than that every year, with civilian deaths often in the thousands. There have been more than 10,000 Islamic terror attacks in just 10 years following 9-11



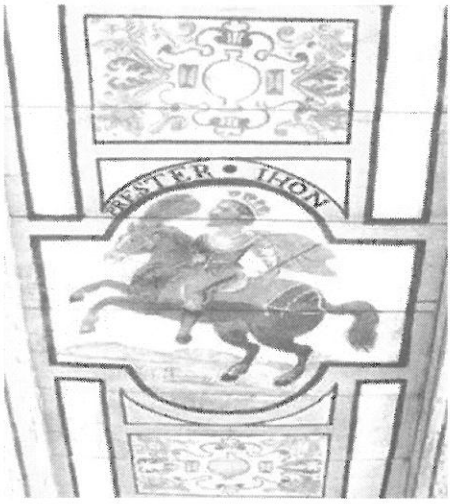
New York World Trade Center, September 11, 2001 (9-11) nearly 3,000 killed.





According to the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR) July 2013, the number of people currently in situations of displacement has hit 45 million, the highest figure for 14 years. Most of these refugees come from only five Islamic countries- Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Syria and Sudan, all as the direct result of Islamic disruptions to other societies. António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees and head of UNHCR announced: "These are alarming numbers. They reflect individual suffering on a huge global scale never before seen by mankind."

Source:www.euronews.com/2013/06/19/world-refugee-day/



Prester John, one of eight prominent kings painted at Stob Hall castle, Scotland, circa 1367.

Perhaps you have never heard of Prester John. He is sometimes called Presbyter John or Presbyter Johannes, believed by many to be a myth. However, once you have met him in Kashmir history, once you have compared the Grail. stories of a perfect kingdom, wizards and priests, strange creatures, lakes, magic wands, Knights of the Round Table, deep mysterious caves, and a sword in a stone, it becomes hard to separate these from Kashmir.

Arthurian lore began with the appearance of Prester John, in Europe, which somewhat coincided with the Crusaders, because in these times the entire world was resisting Muslim incursions and aggressive expansions. He was believed to be a Nestorian and a king-priest (prester being short for presbyter, elder or priest) reigning in an unspecified part of the Far East. He was descended from the magi and was King of India (or a portion of India.) This information places him squarely within the region in or near Kashmir. The legend arose during the Crusades in the 12th century, among European Christians who hoped that Prester John would prove an ally in the effort to regain the Holy Land from the Saracens. In the 13th-14th century various missionaries and travelers, including Marco Polo, searched for his kingdom in Asia. After the mid-14th century, Ethiopia was the center of the quest, as Prester John became identified with the emperor of that African Christian nation. In the Middle East, India and Ethiopia were often confused; until the Renaissance, it was believed that only a narrow strait ("el cavo de Diab," according to Fra Mauro, cartographer of Venice) separated Ethiopia from the Indian sub-continent. As a result, in his 'Mirabilia descripta', written in 1329, the Dominican friar Jourdain Catalani describes the sovereign of Christian Ethiopia as "Prester John." It was also said that, in Prester John's country, children were baptized with fire, not water (author's note: this could be a

reference to Zoroastrian use of sacred fire for marriages, baptisms, and funeral services). Ancient links between India and Ethiopia have existed even before history was recorded during the Auximite period (2nd to 9th Century A.D.)

According to historian Richard Pankhurst, "contacts between the land which came to be known as Ethiopia and India date back to the dawn of history."

In documents and legends of the 15th century, Prester John appears with the personal name of "At Senab," a corruption of the Arabic "Abd as-Salib": this is a local Egyptian translation of the Ethiopic Gäbrä-Mäsqäl, "Servant of the Cross," the official royal name of some Ethiopian Emperors and, in particular, of the Emperor 'Amda-Seyon I (1314-1344 A.D.). The legends inspired the great Italian poets of the 16th century: Aristo, in his poem Orlando Furioso, described the travels of Astolfo, Knight of the Court of Emperor Charles the Great, to Ethiopia..[350]

Prester John's first appearance in historical documents are his initial letters addressed to Manuel of Byzantium and others. These were brought to the courts of the Byzantine and Holy Roman emperors by actual ambassadors from the court of Prester John himself in 1165.[351]

Later in 1177, Philippus the physician of Pope Alexander III brought another letter addressed to the Pope from Prester John after meeting with representatives of the king. in the 'Chronicle of Otto of Fresingen' who heard word of a powerful Christian sovereign reigning in the East in 1145 from a Syrian bishop who had arrived at the Papal Court in Viterbo. In 1177, Pope Alexander III wrote a letter to "Presbyter Iohannes," hoping that he might become an ally of the European princes fighting to stop the Muslim advance in Mediterranean areas. At that time it was believed that Prester John was a sovereign in or near India.

The story of Prester John was thought to be fiction for centuries, and many false and fanciful copies of the letters were circulated, until information surfaced that verified the letters from Prester John to various kings and courts of Europe. The tales of Prince Joseph (Josaphat-Prester John) first began circulating on the Old Silk Road in Iranian languages emanating from India and Kashmir. Then it was transmitted in Arabic and Greek versions, which were translated into practically every language of the Christian world.

The story of Prester John is known today from almost 100 manuscripts, written in several languages, including Hebrew, which are scattered throughout the libraries of Europe.[352]

In medieval Christendom's struggle against Islam, the possible existence of a Christian priest-king named Prester John helped fuel European interests in Christian communities of Africa and India. The legend of Prester John persisted in Europe from the 12th to the 17th century, thanks to a letter (c. 1145) that described a lost Christian kingdom thought to be somewhere in India or Asia. The letter was copied and distributed throughout Europe over

many years, and the legend grew to include exotic and enticing details: Prester John was descended from one of the Magi (possible); he had magical abilities (possible, as a magi, druid, or rishi., he might be regarded as a magician like Merlin) and ruled over a great area full of riches (India was very wealthy with gold and jewels) and strange creatures (in India, strange creatures like Hanuman, Kali, Garuda and Ganesh are gods) and, most significantly, he was resisting Muslim armies and could be counted as an ally in those battles.

The possibility that another Christian kingdom existed on the other side of Muslim territory was a catalyst for European hopes for centuries; it was one of the reasons Portugal's King Joao II sent Bartolomeu Dias to find an eastern sea route to India in 1487[353]. Besides its geo-political strategic implications, the story of Prester John was, to devout Christians, validity of the message of Jesus.

The very first poem mentioning the Grail is *Perceval, le Conte du Graal* (*The Story of the Grail*) by Chrétien de Troyes, dated sometime between 1181 and 1191. This was approximately 84 years after the First Crusade in 1096, and 15 years after knowledge of Prester John had reached Europe in 1145. Gildas (c. 500 – 570) was a 6th-century British cleric who wrote about several kings who resembled Arthur, but he never mentioned Arthur by name. King Arthur first appeared in '*Y Gododdin*' a medieval 12th century Welsh poem that only mentions a battle and the king's name. The details of Arthur's story are mainly composed of folklore and literary invention, and his historical existence is debated and disputed by modern historians.

However, by the 12th century, the legends had achieved an unprecedented popularity in the Middle Ages, when Barlaam[354] and Josaphat were regarded as real historical individuals, finally resulting in their canonization by the Catholic Church.

The First Crusades had begun in 1096[355], and the stories of chivalry and great knights were associated with the adventures of Godfrey, who led the First Crusade and became the first King of Jerusalem (although he hesitated to use that title). He was a leading figure in restoration of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and was buried there. He was of the Des Marets lineage, and my family can trace our ancestry directly back to his family, a source of great pride for us.

Legends of his greatness and nobleness soon spread far and wide in popular literature, but there was no mention of a Grail associated with any of the Crusading knights until nearly 100 years later. Then the stories of King Arthur, the chivalrous knights and Prester John all began merging into one great legend encompassing all the Grail lore.

Most names and events associated with Prester John can be traced back to Indian counterparts; Barlaam/Balaam might originally be venerable one, a common term used for divinities and persons of high religious status. Josaphat might be a form of Bodhasaf, derived from the Sanskrit word bodhisattva, a

term applied to one who is on the way to becoming a Buddha. It may also be a variation of 'Yusasaph'. I am inclined to accept 'Yusa Asaph' as 'son of Joseph' interpretation because this was/is a common Farsi-Pashtu verbage in the very region where this name appears at the Roza Bal tomb.

Three versions of the story of Barlaam and Josaphat are known. The Indian king Avenir has given the sorcerer Thêodas the task of persuading his son Josaphat to renounce his Christian faith. Thêodas sends to him a woman who offers Josaphat her erotic services in exchange for allowing herself to be baptized. Preaching the Christian faith, Josaphat resists the temptation.

This seduction scene resembles that between Kundry and Parsifal in the second act of Wagner's drama. It also resembles the scene depicted in the Acts of Thomas about Jesus and Magdalene, when they first met at the Temple. She was the seductress and Jesus resisted her temptations and converted her.

Prester John was a priest- king who ruled over 'The Three Indias': Hind, Sind and Zanj. His kingdom is associated with Shambhalla.-Shangri-La in Tibet. His father was King Abbanar, a name very similar to the dynastic line from Megavahana in Kashmir...namely Abiathar-Abimanyu-Abban-Haban. This king Abbanar was reportedly not a traditional Christian, but a sect or branch of Christianity. This could have been the Thomasian Christians (Church of the East) or the Savites of Kashmir, a Hinduized form of Christianity that we touched upon earlier in this book. [356] The churches established by St. Thomas predominated in India until the arrival of the Portuguese in 1530.

Prester John stated that he was descended from the magi who visited Jesus at his birth. In light of the previous links established in this book, this is probable. Prester John could have been a direct descendant, or perhaps a cousin, a desposyni in the line of Jesus.

He could have been from the line of Gondopharnes, who we met earlier as one of the magi who visited Jesus at birth, or the nearby Kanishka lineage of kings. New rulers came and went, leaving their contributions behind in local gene pool.

The magi and the rishis of Kashmir, those who studied metallurgy, Ayurvedic medicine, and astronomy, are associated with magic and this leads us to the idea of Merlin the magician.

Prester John is associated with the Thomasine Christians and the Nestorians of India. We know they were in Kashmir ever since the founding of the first church there by Saint Thomas. Prester John had a scepter that had a huge emerald mounted on its end, a symbol of his great wealth. We know there was a long scepter in Roza Bal tomb. We know the end was removed but we do not know what was attached to it before, or how long ago it was stolen, or who took it, or when it was taken. It may have been an emerald, or something associated with magi/magic in some way. The rod itself, even without the

filial, is still used in prayers to make rain when famine grips the val
According to locals, it still has strong magic powers, even in its pres
damaged condition.

KING ARTHUR

Kalhana mentioned that Pravarasena possessed a jeweled sword that
deeply sentimental to him, and coincidentally there was an ancient ceremo
sword in Roza Bal tomb, often mistaken in photographs for a wooden cr
All decorations have been picked off. However, looking at the old photos
obvious that it is not a cross, but a sword with a cross guard, and it is st
into a rock for support to hold it upright, reminiscent of Arthurian lore abo
sword in the stone. It has never been examined by archaeologists, and so
one knows how old it is nor when or why it was inserted into the stone. T
leads us to consider a few parallels between Kashmir and Camelot.

The events of King Arthur, whether you believe he was real or legend
apparently took place circa 400-500 AD. The tomb of Yuz Asaf was built,
his descendants, sons and daughters, were dispersing worldwide at this ti
carrying their family legends.

Arthur was the first born son of King Uther Pendragon, who was
youngest son of the King of Britannia, Constantine II.

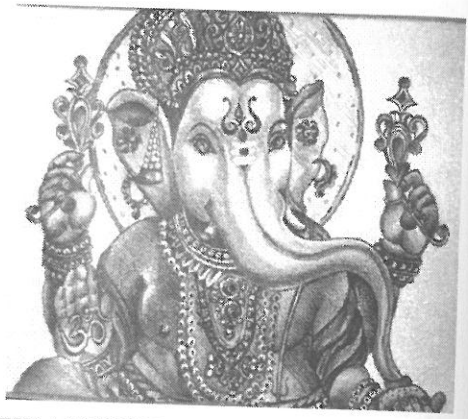
Merlin, a wise magician, advised that the baby Arthur should be raised
secret place and that none should know his identity until many years la
Only a true king would be able to remove the sword, named Excalibur, fr
the stone, and Arthur succeeded. The stories of Lancelot and the Holy G
were added sometime during the 12th century. Early Welsh Arthurian te
include a poem found in the 'Black Book of Carmarthen' [357] ("What ma
the gatekeeper?").

This takes the form of a dialogue between Arthur and the gatekeeper
fortress he wishes to enter, in which Arthur recounts the names and deeds
himself and his men. This is similar to the story in the Rajatarangini that Je
wanted to enter Kashmir and had to identify his family and himself to
gatekeeper, as Kashmir guarded it borders carefully and only Jews known
the residents were allowed to settle there. Merlin advising to raise the chil
a secret place is similar to the true story of Jayendra discovering the Pra
rasena II, the grandchild of Jesus, taking him to a secret place to be raised.
returns to Kashmir many years later, properly identified as the rightful ru
Was this child known as Galain/Alain in Europe, whose name appears
some geology records?

Through the centuries, looters and opportunists have gradually pic
away at the embellishments on the sword in Roza Bal tomb, until nothin
left but a deteriorating piece of wood. The only photos available now app
in Fida Hassnain's book, *"The Fifth Gospel"* (1988).

'Knights of the Roundtable' is lifted directly from a tradition in India. The legislative assembly of any of the states of India that was usually governed by young princes, valiant warriors, and Chief Ministers is called vidhan sabha [vidhan law + sabha assembly]. These round table meetings were called Parisad in Sanskrit, and the word is still used today to describe any executive (important) meeting held for official matters in India Parliament.

Accounts of the strange wonders found in the kingdom of Prester John are none other than ancient Hindu deities, which include gods like Kali, looking ferocious with her tongue hanging out, Ganesh and Hanuman, with the heads of elephant and monkey, or Garuda, the flying man-beast. Their depictions can be seen everywhere in India. This must have puzzled westerners seeing or hearing about them for the first time.



MUSLIM EXPANSION

Prester John was crying out against the invasions into India. Half the world was under attack by the same foe.

He said that although his kingdom was the last holdout, many had already scattered and gone into hiding. Four hundred years later it still wasn't over for Europe and the world, compelling Nostradamus to write prophecies linking Islam's role to world doom and gloom.

Jerusalem was built by the Jews around the crown jewel of Judaism, the Temple. The land for this temple had been paid for by King David, who purchased it in two distinct transactions, one in silver, the other in gold, from Ornan.[*1 Chronicles 21:18-27*]. The Jewish presence was well established for nearly 1700 years, centered on the First and Second Temples. Original Christianity was born there over 600 years before Islam. It did not arrive there by force or by missionaries.

Palestine was invaded in 632 by Muslims (the same year that Muhammad died), and Jerusalem was captured in 638.

The invasions were bloody, unexpected, and destructive for the long-established Christian and Jewish inhabitants, and the countryside was devastated. This was the start of 1400 years of forced Arab-Muslim presence in the Holy Land.

There is a myth (traced to Islamic revisionists) that this time of Islamic rule was a "golden age" for Jews, who were allegedly better treated by the Muslims than by the Christians. This myth has been shattered by historical

scholarship that shows continuous suffering and persecution of Jews and Christians under Islamic rule.[358]

After Israel was conquered, the Temple Mount was changed to the Mosque of Omar (Dome of the Rock) and the Al Aqsa Mosque. While Jerusalem is not mentioned even once in the Quran, modern Arabs make great pretense by claiming it as one of their holy sites. This, of course is untenable. The Arab claim that each and every Jewish Holy Place is rightfully theirs is based on their own historical revisionism and has no foundation in fact. If they believe they are descended from Abraham and this gives them the right to take everything away from the Jews. Get the DNA from both Muhammad and Abraham and compare them for bloodlines. Let science tell the world the truth.

The first attempted invasion of India by Muslims occurred in 636 CE — under Caliph Umar, within just four years of Muhammad's death and during the same period of Muslim attacks on Jerusalem. This was followed by 16 more invasion attempts in India. Mohammed always wanted to conquer India because of its fabled gold, precious stones, and other riches. He encouraged his followers to start this war and keep at it, killing all who stood in their way and taking anything they wanted as booty until India was defeated. The 'war' was fought by surprise attacks against an unarmed and unprepared population, in small villages and towns often while people slept or prayed or worked their fields and crops. Rarely did Muslim invaders engage in conventional warfare against organized armies.

Participants in the holy war against al-Hind [the Hindus-India] are promised to be saved from hell-fire... The Ki tab al-Fit an ('Book of Trials') credits Muhammad with saying that God will forgive the sins of the members of the Muslim armies who attack Hindus and give Muslims the victory[359].

This intensity and unconventional warfare terrified Prester John and made him fearful. This is how history unfolded leading up to Prester John and the Crusades:

ISLAM ATTACKS

630 Muhammad conquers Mecca from his base in Medina.

632 Muhammad dies in Medina. Islam controls the Hijaz.

636 Muslims conquest of Syria, and the surrounding lands, all Christian – including Palestine and Iraq.

637 Muslim invaders conquer Iraq (some date it in 635 or 636).

638 Muslim invaders conquer and annex Jerusalem, taking it from the Byzantines.

638 – 650 Muslim invaders conquer Iran, except along Caspian Sea.

639 – Muslim invaders conquer Egypt.

642

641 Muslim invaders control Syria and Palestine.

643 – 707 Muslim invaders conquer North Africa.

644 – 650 Muslim invaders conquer Cyprus, Tripoli in North Africa, and establish Islamic rule in Iran, Afghanistan, and Sind.

673 – 678 Arabs besiege Constantinople, capital of Byzantine Empire.

691 Dome of the Rock is completed in Jerusalem, only six decades after Muhammad's death.

710 – 713 Muslim invaders conquer the lower Indus Valley.

711 – 713 Muslim invaders conquer Spain and impose the kingdom of Andalus. The Muslim conquest moves into Europe.

718 Conquest of Spain complete.

732 Muslim invasion of France is stopped at the Battle of Poitiers / Battle of Tours. The Franks, under their leader Charles Martel (the grandfather of Charlemagne), defeat the Muslims and turn them back out of France.

762 Foundation of Baghdad: caliph al-Mansur of the Abbasid caliphate, chose the city's location to be the capitol of Islam because of its critical link in trade routes, mild climate, topography (critical for fortification), and proximity to water.

785 Foundation of the Great Mosque of Cordova.

789 Rise of Idrisid amirs (Muslim Crusaders) in Morocco; Christoforos, a Muslim who converted to Christianity, is executed.

800 Autonomous Aghlabid dynasty (Muslim Crusaders) in Tunisia

807 Caliph Harun al—Rashid orders the destruction of non-Muslim prayer houses & of the church of Mary Magdalene in Jerusalem.

809 Aghlabids (Muslim invaders) conquer Sardinia, Italy.

813 Christians in Palestine are attacked; many flee the country.

831 Muslim invaders capture Palermo, Italy; raids in Southern Italy.

837 – 901 Aghlabids (Muslim invaders) conquer Sicily, raid Corsica, Italy, France.

869 – 883 Revolt of black slaves in Iraq.

909 Rise of the Fatimid Caliphate in Tunisia; these Muslim Crusaders occupy Sicily, Sardinia.

928 – 969 Byzantine military revival, they retake old territories, such as Cyprus (964) and Tarsus (969).

937 The Church of the Resurrection (aka Church of Holy Sepulcher) is burned down by Muslims; more churches in Jerusalem are attacked.

960 Conversion of Qarakhanid Turks to Islam.

969 Fatimids (Muslim invaders) conquer Egypt and found Cairo.

973 Israel and southern Syria are again conquered by the Fatimids.

1003 First persecutions by al—Hakim; the Church of St. Mark in Fustat, Egypt, is destroyed.

1009 Destruction of the Church of the Resurrection by al—Hakim (see 937).

1012 Beginning of al—Hakim's oppressive decrees against Jews and Christians.

1050 Creation of Almoravid (Muslim invaders) movement in Mauretania; Almoravids (aka Murabitun) are coalition of western Saharan Berbers; followers of Islam, focusing on the Quran, the hadith, and Maliki law.

1071 Battle of Manzikert, Seljuk Turks (Muslim invaders) defeat Byzantines and occupy much of Anatolia.

1071 Turks (Muslim invaders) invade Palestine.

1073 Conquest of Jerusalem by Turks (Muslim invaders).

1075 Seljuks (Muslim invaders) capture Nicea (Iznik) and make it their capital in Anatolia.

1076 Almoravids (Muslim invaders) (see 1050) conquer western Ghana.

1086 Almoravids (Muslim invaders) (see 1050) send help to Andalus, Battle of Zallaca.

1090 – 1091 Almoravids (Muslim invaders) occupy all of Andalus except Saragossa and Balearic Islands.

1094 Byzantine emperor Alexius Comnenus I asked western Christendom for help against Seljuk (Muslim Turks) invasions of his territory.

1095 Pope Urban II preaches first Crusade; they capture Jerusalem in 1099.

START OF WESTERN CRUSADES

Only after enduring all of the above Islamic aggressions did Western Christendom launches its first Crusades.

SLAVERY IN AFRICA

Africans have probably suffered longer and more severely than any people on earth from the presence of Islam on their soil, and it continues to this day. In nearly every history book about slaves being brought to America and South America, it is rarely mentioned that most slaves were captured by Arabs, and sold by Arabs. It was a lucrative business they controlled. While most slaves bound for the Americas were brought for agricultural purposes, slaves bound for Arab countries were used for sex and the military. Twice as many women as men were enslaved by Muslims. Men and boys were immediately castrated. Most of the children born to these women were killed. The death toll from 1400 years of the Arab slave trade is estimated to be between 112 and 140 million. Mekuria Bulcha estimates that over 17 million Africans were sold to the Middle East and Asia between the sixth and twentieth centuries. Ronald Segal in his book *Islam's Black Slaves: The Other Diaspora*, explains that the Islamic slave trade began some eight centuries before the Atlantic trade and was conducted on a different scale providing slaves more often for domestic - including sex - and military service. Make no mistake, the only ones controlling the slave trade all these years were Muslim Arabs.

In the Arab-led slave system, some slaves achieved positions of authority, a few became rulers. The process of captivity, subjugation and transportation was extremely cruel. Segal looks at the appeal of Islam to African-American communities and the denial by some black Muslim leaders like Louis Farrakan of the continued existence of African slavery and oppression in contemporary Mauritania and Sudan. An interesting point made by Segal in an interview was that "whereas the gender ratio of slaves in the Atlantic trade was two males to every female, in the Islamic trade it was two females to every male." It needs to be noted that the Arab slave trade concentrated particularly on children.

Arabs focused-and still do on children, because children are easier to re-educate and Arabize. They are also easier to capture and transport to Arabia, a situation that still exists among many Africans today.

PRESTER JOHN'S PLEAS TO EUROPEAN COURTS

Prester John lived in times when Muslim aggression was unchecked in the world. Any country or king could fight a war man to man, but even the conventional rules of warfare were not used by Muslims, night raids on small sleeping villages being but one example. He was desperate and frightened for the future. There are letters of correspondence between Prester John and the Llamas of Shambhalla. (Tibet). There are additional letters from Prester John to European courts.

While it is popular today to claim that the correspondence between the Pope, the European kings, and Prester John was an elaborate hoax, substantial scholarship in the area suggests something quite different. Prester John's initial letter addressed to Manuel of Byzantium [360] was brought to the courts of the Byzantine and Holy Roman emperors by actual ambassadors from the court of Prester John himself in 1165. Later in 1177, Philippus, the physician of Pope Alexander III, brought another letter addressed to the Pope from Prester John after meeting with representatives of the king. The letter to the Pope contained requests to build a church in Rome, an altar in Jerusalem and to receive instructions regarding the Catholic religion. Alexander III responded by sending Philippus back with his reply to the kingdom of Prester John. No information is available as to whether Philippus succeeded in his mission. Not only was there correspondence between Prester John and the emperors and Pope, but representatives of the rajas of India who appeared in Europe. Philippus himself may have visited Prester John's court. The kingdom involved in these correspondences has a real historical basis.[361]

Prester John claims in several of his letters that he retained within his kingdom a relic of the Christ, the Holy Grail,[362] and he brought it to Europe. Yet at no time does he describe the Holy Grail physically. This suggests that the road to Kashmir may be the true path of the Holy Grail. No legends of the Holy Grail existed in Europe before this time. The Crusades had begun 84 years prior, yet a Grail was never mentioned until the arrival of Prester John. Then suddenly, within the span of barely 10-15 years, the Grail stories began to circulate widely. The Grail legend's development has been traced in detail by cultural historians, first appearing in the later 12th and early 13th centuries.

Wolfram von Eschenbach,[363] in the early 13th century, first suggested that Titurel, the grandfather of Parsifal, had brought the grail back from somewhere near the Ganges and founded an order of knights to guard the relic. Here again is a reference to an India source for Grail legends. The Ganges River, like the Sarasvati and Indus Rivers, is one of several major rivers flowing down from the Himalayas into a vast basin known as the Indo-Gangetic Plain.

In Jungere, Titurel, Parsifal becomes the spiritual son of Prester John and assumes his name and throne. In the Dutch Lancelot, Prester John is the son

of Parsifal. In the Carolingian cycle, Ogier the Dane becomes the linear ancestor of Prester John through his marriage with the local fairy princess. According to legend, the knights who protected the Grail were the Templars. This legend did not come about until much later, for the Knights were first organized to protect pilgrims, not the Grail. History tells us this much. But we also do not know what the Grail was. Some have considered that it was a cup, or perhaps even the womb that carried children of Jesus. There are many ways the Grail could have arrived in Kashmir. It may have been on the end of the Rod. It may have been a cup packed among the household possessions of Jesus and Mother Mary when they led the exodus out of the Holy Land (an ancient wooden cup is among the relics at Roza Bal tomb). The Grail may have arrived with Thomas and kept within one of his 17 churches.

Perhaps one day, in some half-forgotten, dusty storage room in a European museum or from a brittle, aged scroll in a Himalayan monastery another clue will be found. The destruction of historic material through cultural terrorism is on a global scale of cataclysmic proportions.

Our responsibility is to save as much as possible as soon as possible.
If there is but one chance in a million, or one in a billion that Roza Bal is the tomb of Jesus, then we need to know.



GENEALOGY WITHOUT PROOF IS MYTHOLOGY

WHY WE CONNECT WITH OUR ANCESTORS

What could we say to Salafi-Wahabi who believes this is all a waste of time, this business of bloodlines and saving old graves, and DNA? What explains the attraction one has for ancestors and old tombs and graves? Why is this important to us? What is the harm if we simply bulldoze the old stuff and get on with the new? After all, dead is dead, isn't it? What is so compelling about knowing one's history and bloodline, the further back, the better? There may be a few surprising answers in current DNA studies. This need to connect with our past may be wired into our genes. Our ancient relatives may occasionally stir a memory within us.

Scientific studies are trying to determine what kind of memory may be stored in cells and in DNA, and just how much of this may be capable of

passing through organ donors and from our own ancestors. To some extent, even molecules of water and photons of light have demonstrated a memory of sorts, and, therefore, cognitive reactions to some influences. These kinds of studies may eventually shed further understanding about our bond with our ancestors.[364] Our present lives are a reaction and conditioning to how our ancestors survived, how to react under sever conditions and adaptations.

Some humans feel a special bond, a memory of a time, or place, or person, they identify strongly with. This is not limited to humans. A recent documentary on the 'Animal Planet' was about 'Echo', the 65-year-old matriarchal elephant. For most of her life she was the leader of three generations of elephants who were her immediate family. She died of illness and old age, but her elephant family still visits her dusty old bones several times a year. They show obvious signs of grieving and remembering her. This suggests that powerful ties with ancient loved ones are not limited to humans.

If I claim (and I do not) to remember a moment in the life of Cleopatra, I will probably be labeled a kook. If my DNA *matches* Cleopatra, proving that I am one of her great great granddaughters, my claims might merit some investigation. However, this implies that I should also have memories of others who contributed to my gene pool, not just one memory of a famous historical person.

Why would I remember only Cleopatra but not my other grandmothers? One of my ancient grandmothers lived in Sweden. She was a widow who, according to family legends, fought off cold, hunger, starvation, wolves, and invading Danes. Only one of her four children survived. Surely, these powerful experiences should have left a memory on my genes, or at least a reincarnation of her memory in some aspect of my life.[365] A family Bible and old grandmothers passed the story down to me, but I cannot recognize any memories of her or of those events.

One of my great grandmothers may have been from the Ainu people of northern Japan, but I have no cultural identity with the Japanese. In India, and among Buddhists, belief in reincarnation is very much alive, and some examples provide proofs that are very compelling. It is the same with transplant patients who suddenly begin remembering incidents from the donor's life. We do have these unexplained and isolated incidents, but they are never consistent enough to be considered the norm.

Without written historical records for validation, a DNA test can only tell us so much. Both the DNA and the written family history should support one another. It is impossible to ever have your own full history because the numbers of ancestors it took to create you reach staggering proportions the further back one goes.

As mentioned in a previous chapter, suppose that you wanted a written record of your every ancestor…if you use the Pyramid Theory, a doubling of ancestors each generation back, you have 2048 ancestors by the 12th genera-

tion in your past, and possibly 60,000 direct ancestors going back to the Crusades. By Generation #40, you would have more than one trillion ancestors!

Thus, how could selective memories work, if they exist at all? Why remember this, but not that? What is a real memory, what might be explained by other means, and what is a powerful psychological influence triggered by books or TV? 'Magdalenes', 'Grail children' 'Indigo children' and the newest reincarnation, 'Expected Ones'...each has their own story, goals, representations, and memories that never agree either among themselves or even with historical fact. One would think if they all shared something in common with a common source such as Magdalene, Jesus, or Archangel Michael, or even messages from aliens, at least some basics should be consistent, yet this is *never* the case. Who are we to believe? What proof should we demand?

This is why DNA is such a valuable historical research tool. Take for example the claims of Muslim Arabs that they are descended from Abraham through Ishmael. Arab historians argue for or against this lineage. Simply get a DNA sample from the existing graves of Muhammad and Abraham and make the comparison. End of myths and doubts. But who has the courage for the truth?

BONDING

During the time when Jesus lived in India, circa 48 CE, a beautiful sixteen-year-old princess left her home in Ayodiya (in Magadha, where Jesus and Magdalene first met). She went to Korea to marry King Suro, founder of the ancient Kaya kingdom of Karack. He could find no Princess in his kingdom comparable with the beauty, education, trustworthiness and capabilities of this India princess. She became the first Queen of Geumgwan Gaya, 'Bon Gaya'. She had ten sons, and is considered the ancestor of several prominent Korean lineages.

The former South Korea President, Kim Dae Jung, is one of her descendants.[366] He knows this because the king's family kept careful lineage records, aided in part by their tendency towards veneration of dead relatives[367]. In 2001, a memorial was built to honor her birthplace in Faizabad, the twin city of Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Ram. Every year since then, Queen Heo Hwang-ok's descendants come from Korea to India to pay homage to their royal ancestor.

In 2004, two Korean researchers analyzed samples of DNA taken on the site of the two royal tombs, which enabled them to establish the existence of a genetic bond between the Korean ethnic group and certain ethnic groups of India, Malaysia and Thailand.[368]

The former Korean president, Kim Dae Jung (4 February 1924 – 18 August 2009) a devout Roman Catholic, was especially proud to visit this place of tribute to his ancestral grandmother. He said visiting her memorial

was the most stirring moment of his life[369]. He did not have any visions or memories about this ancestor, none the less; he was deeply moved by this connection with her. This appears to be the same strong bond I felt during my quest for Yuz Asaf. Why?

What bond was Kim Dae Jung identifying with that so overwhelmed him? A race? A culture? An ancient memory? What was so compelling that he would make the journey to her shrine? Could it be for the same reasons that Jesus once visited the tomb of his ancestor Shem?

While it is clear that there are some internal mental processes at work, we don't understand much at all about this compelling human trait. We know that it exists within each of us. Now is the time when science can be the most help. But if we continue to lose these sites to cultural terrorism, then the journey to truth about Muhammad and Jesus, and the road to peace will be delayed for many more years, perhaps centuries.



Ayodiya, India. The monument erected in memory of Hwang Huh. She arrived from India by boat and married King Suro of Gaya in the year 48 CE. She was the first queen of Geumgwan Gaya, and is considered an ancestor of several Korean lineages through her ten sons. They are known as Kim-Hae-Kim clan, have a little over six million Huh descendants in the Republic of South Korea today includes many illustrious members, many presidents and premiers. The memorial site in Ayodiya has become a place of pilgrimage for members of the family. This monument in India is built according to Korean tradition using 3 meter high stone weighing 7,500 kg., shipped to the site from Korea.

FAMILY IN KASHMIR CLAIMS

Our search for the bloodline of King Jesus led us to the family of Bashrat Shaheen living in Kashmir. If they are indeed descended from Yuz Asaf/Jesus, then they would be the Desposyni of Jesus in Kashmir.

Bashrat Shaheen was a local restaurant owner in Srinagar, a frequent contributor to local newspapers, a keen photographer and art connoisseur. He was also the caretaker of Roza Bal tomb, a position, he claimed, had been in his family since Jesus died. He had in his possession ancient scrolls and an ancient book that had been copied from previous crumbling old leather scrolls. The latest version had been copied from a form of Aramaic (ancient Persian) into English. It was first mentioned by Khwaja Nazir Ahmad[370] in 1947, who said-

> 'The book, when I saw it, was moth-eaten, and the first and last pages were, unfortunately missing. I had the relevant folio photographed, but before I could complete my negotiations for the purchase of the manuscript, I had to leave Srinagar because of the partition of India' [when Pakistan was made a separate nation from India, August 14, 1947].

After the first public mention that such a document existed, others would make inquiries, asking to see the book. Bashrat Shaheen usually denied all requests, saying it was in a 'sacred trust' held by him only.

No explanation was given as to why this sacred trust had 'almost' been sold to Khwaja Nazir Ahmad just a few years prior. Born in 1931, he would only have been sixteen years old at the time. The sale may have been negotiated through his father, a brother, an uncle, or another family member. Even before I arrived in the country, he spoke with Professor Hassnain about meeting me and perhaps finally obtaining DNA- to determine if we shared a common grandfather.

It is hard to know how to approach the subject of his premature death. Some have ruled it a suicide. All we know is that no one was at home when he died and that many things went missing from his library and his personal papers. No one has come forward and admitted to having the book or scrolls, nor even a copy since then.

All that remains of the genealogy claims now are the names Yuz Asaf and Marjan, followed by their son, Eli-Kim/Eli-Mar. The next 40 descendants are missing, apparently not even copied down in recent times. Then the names resume starting about 1766, during the Court case over who has the rights to the tomb and the large sums of money it generated. Apparently, the Shaheen's ancestors had migrated to Afghanistan for several years, and then returned and expected to resume care of the tomb.[371] Their claims were disputed in the Court case of 1766. The most critical names in the family line, the missing 40 generations back to Yuz Asaf, are missing.

In a letter to the author Johan Forstrom dated October 10, 1986, Bashrat Shaheen told of an incident that happened during the reign of a king called Khusro I (531 - 579 AD, also known as Chosroes,Nausherwan/Anushirvan[372]).

There was a plague, and illness was spreading rapidly. King Nowsherwan brought about 500 people to Sahibzada Abu Bakr, an ancestor of Bashrat Shaheen, and he healed them all.

This king is indirectly connected with the Sudarium of Jesus. It was taken away from Palestine circa 614-616 because of him.

> *[Note: Where was Muhammad in 616? Muslims were being driven out of Arabia because of their raids and attacks on passing caravans. They fled to Abbyssinia, where they sought protection as refugees. However, a delegation arrived from Mekka within the year and informed the king they were not refugees, but rather bandit raiders and criminals trying to avoid punishment according to the law. After several debates, w3herein the Muslims pleaded their case by stating they were close to Christianity in their beliefs, the king decided this was better than the polyathiest Makkans, and so he allowed them to remain.]*

Khosrou was the Christian king who removed Christian relics from Palestine and bragged that he also acquired the true Cross from Jerusalem. In order to protect the Sudarium (Face cloth of Jesus) from him, it was smuggled away through northern Africa in 616, arrived in Spain shortly thereafter and has been in Oviedo, Spain ever since. Sudarium is a Latin word meaning 'sweat cloth'. It covered the face of Jesus after his death on the cross.

The same custom exists today. The face of the deceased are quickly covered with a sheet or a body bag so that the family or onlookers would not see the face, where the blood would pool and gather in large disfiguring blotches, or eyelids and jawlines would fall open, or rigamortis set in. In most cultures, if burial has to be delayed even for a few hours, at the very least a cloth is pulled up under the chin and tied over the head to keep the mouth from falling wide open. In modern times, a few simple stitches, or even glue does the job. I recall one poor old man who died sitting in his chair. Rigamortis set in before he was found. His family had to carry him through the streets with a cloth tied around his head– and his entire body tied to the very wooden chair he died in. The chair and the old man would be buried together. When possible, if a body has to pass through populated areas, then a casket is rented to transport the body to the grave. The deceased is placed in the ground wrapped only in a simple white cloth, and the casket is ready to be used again. Rarely is an entire casket allotted to just one person forever. Most often, even a white sheet is beyond practicality. A body is simply placed in the ground lying on its side then covered with dirt. A grave marker of some kind is a courtesy so people don't inadvertently uncover the corpse when gathering wild foods or planting a spring crop.

COUNTING GENERATIONS

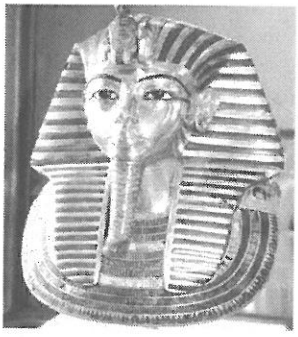
'Generation' is a word from the Latin generāre, meaning "to beget". There are cultural generations, during which unrelated people of all ages live at one time (periods identified as the 'Baby Boomer' generation of WW2, or the 'Stolen

Generation' of the Australian Aborigines slave trade). However, we are only interested in family generations. A family generation is the time from the birth of a person, to the birth of his or her child. This can be anything from 15 to as much as 100 years until a man fathers his first child. In the Bible, men lived for 200 to 800 years, thus 'generations' were counted differently. For much of recorded history the average age of women when they first give birth was about 16 to 20 years. This is accepted as the average period between the birth of parents and the birth of their offspring. At this rate, there are approximately three and half to four generations per each 100 years, or four generations in each century.

However, if we do the math strictly according to this rule, in the last 1,000 years you have a bit more than two trillion ancestors. There is a problem with this: that number far exceeds the total number of people who have ever lived on the face of the earth.

Once you document one royal ancestor, you will probably find hundreds more, thanks to the excellent records kept of nobility marriages. Everyone's roots go back to the same family tree. But each path to our common past is different, and reconstructing that path, using whatever records are available, is its own reward. You can ask whether everyone in the Western world is descended from Charlemagne, and the answer is yes, we are all descended from Charlemagne. But can you *prove* it? That's your genealogy quest, to establish your very own personal and accurate trail as far back as possible.

My DNA was tested as part of the National Genome Project. It was done after I began living and working in Kashmir. I thought my ancestry seemed solidly European, and I knew of nothing else. And so it was with complete incredulousness that I learned about an ancient grandmother from the Ainu of Japan (who is in the same group as the Andamanese of India, and certain Tibetans), and another ancient grandmother from the Kashmir region. I never knew this.



The DNA of King Tut was recently analyzed and a family tree established for him. The new study published in the "Journal of the American Medical Association" marks the first time the Egyptian government has allowed genetic studies to be performed using royal mummies.

"This will open to us a new era," said project leader Zahi Hawass, the Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA-Hawass no longer holds these positions.) He said, "I'm very happy this is an Egyptian project, and I'm very proud of the work we did."

In the DNA study, the mummies of King Tut and ten other royals were examined. Of these ten, the identities of only three had been known for certain. Using DNA samples taken from the mummies' bones, the scientists

were able to create a five-generation family tree for the boy pharaoh. The team looked for shared genetic sequences in the Y chromosome—a bundle of DNA passed only from father to son—to identify King Tut's male ancestors. The researchers then determined parentage for the mummies by looking for signs that a mummy's genes are a blend of a specific couple's DNA.

In this way, the team was able to determine that a mummy known until now as KV55 is the "heretic king" Akhenaton—and that he was King Tut's father. Akhenaton was best known for abolishing ancient Egypt's pantheon in favor of worshipping only one god. Furthermore, the mummy known as KV35 was King Tut's grandfather, the pharaoh Amenhotep III, whose reign was marked by unprecedented prosperity.

A mummy previously known as the Elder Lady is Queen Tye, King Tut's grandmother and wife of Amenhotep III.

King Tut's mother is a mummy that researchers had been calling the Younger Lady. While the body of King Tut's mother has finally been revealed, her identity remains a mystery. DNA studies show that she was the daughter of Amenhotep III and Tye and thus was the full sister of her husband, Akhenaten..

Some Egyptologists have speculated that King Tut's mother was Akhenaten's chief wife, Queen Nefertiti—made famous by an iconic bust. But the new findings seem to challenge this idea, because historical records do not indicate that Nefertiti and Akhenaton were related. The most surprising results to come from the DNA of the pharaohs are that they were Celtic-Europeans[373], not Africans, Arabs, or native Egyptians. They carry the R1b, specifically the European R1b1b2 rather than the Levantine/Egyptian R1b1a. R1b1b2 is quite rare in modern Egypt (2% of the population) and was assumed to have come mostly through the Greek and Roman occupation. R1b1a makes up 4% of the modern Egyptian male lineages. The western European branch of R1b is very rare in Egypt, and is not found in Central Africa.

SURNAMES

Only a small number of surnames can be traced back to the first person that used the surname. Tracing a name is complicated by clerical errors, personal choices, phonetic variations, etc. surnames have changed dramatically over time. When literacy rates were low, many families did not know how to spell their surnames. When the time came for the name to be recorded for legal reasons, the clerk or judge who wrote down the name wrote his interpretation of the spoken name. Spellings also changed when families moved, particularly to new countries. We have seen examples of this repeatedly in this book.

Since the days of pharaohs and the Roman Empire, slaves were often given the surname associated with their master. Post-slavery, some slaves chose to keep the former master's name while others adopted new names.

Surnames generally evolved from descriptive names and can be divided into five basic types of names which will also vary depending upon the native language used.

Patronymic (same as the father), Occupational (Smith, Cooper, etc.), Geographic (a place name-a town or city, or a geographical feature name such as 'dale', 'brook' or 'hill'), Descriptive (physical, emotional, height, hair color, etc.), and Estate (land holdings, manors, castles, vineyards, farms, etc.). Understanding these types of surnames can help you trace the origin of your surname.

Surnames were not originally legal names, nor were they passed down in families. Wives did not always take their husbands' surnames. If the wife's family was prominent and of higher wealth or status, the husband often took the name of that family. To trace the origin of a surname successfully often requires researching into the female lineage as well as the male lineage. About 1500 years ago in Europe, surnames did become hereditary, and now with explosive population growth, surname changes are neither common nor easy.

Most genealogists prefer to refer to a mother by her maiden name when they are constructing a pedigree, whether in chart form such as a family tree or in some written form. This convention is used because it is a concise way of presenting genealogical information. Thus they would write (or list on a pedigree chart) a child as 'the son of John Smith and Mary Brown.'

DNA TESTS

DNA, shorthand for deoxyribonucleic acid, is hereditary material found in nearly all cells of a human body. It is another tool in the genealogist's tool box. For people interested in genealogy, DNA testing is the "cutting edge" method of research. The first thing your DNA test will yield is your Haplogroup.

Haplogroup is a group of people with the same mutation (change) in their Y-Chromosome, which they inherited from their distant fathers. Remember, Y-Chromosome is only copied to sons, not to daughters. Daughters will inherit only X chromosome from fathers.

As change in Y-Chromosome is exactly transmitted from fathers to sons for hundreds of successive generations, this means the people in the same haplogroup had common male ancestors thousands years back. In other words, they are derived from the same stock.

A DNA test usually involves wiping a cotton swab against a person's cheek inside his or her mouth, then mailing this back to the testing company. DNA exists in nearly every cell of every person. DNA could also be retrieved from hair, a fingernail clipping, a bone, or a drop of blood. Scientists have

recovered DNA from a Neanderthal that lived 100,000 years ago - the oldest human-type DNA so far. It was extracted from the tooth of a Neanderthal child found in a cave in the Meuse Basin, Belgium. DNA might one day be obtained from the Shroud of Turin or from a tooth from Lord Buddha, or hairs from Abraham and Sarah (buried in the cave of Machpelah.) and other Biblical patriarchs, apostles, prophets, pharaohs and rajas. No matter how old or how famous, if there are any biological remains, they could yield DNA, and that DNA could change everything we thought we knew about history. Studying DNA has become common, but not always easy and definitely not cheap. As in any analysis of ancient DNA, cross-contamination with modern DNA looms large. If so much as a single cell from a lab worker gets into a sample being analyzed, the results could become worthless. Therefore, two or three samples from the same source are taken whenever possible.

In a living human, the entire procedure of a DNA test could be accomplished in just a day or two for paternity or criminal cases. However, in mummies, you could reasonably expect several weeks or months, because you have to be able to replicate the results in separate samples, each tested independently. It is slow, difficult and time-consuming.

You may be surprised by the number of different family permeations that can exist from just one ancestor such as Abraham. For example, several lineages are intertwined in the Merovingian families of France. Two family lines pass from Egypt through Ireland into Wales and Scotland. A third line comes directly from the Exilarchs (the leaders of the Jewish community in exile after the Diaspora) in Babylon. This lineage goes directly into southern France, where descendants married into the noble families of the region. Thus, many combinations and permutations are constantly being created, although few accurate written records will ever survive to explain the DNA trail.

Some people think they just submit a DNA sample and get back their entire family tree. That is not how it works. DNA can do many wonderful things. Nevertheless, you still have to combine your DNA findings with conventional genealogy to build an accurate family tree. Suppose, for example, there had been an adoption in a family, or an illegitimate child by an unknown father outside the family. DNA can establish such broken links, but not explain why or how it exists. In Western cultures, a female's surname typically changes every generation. That means the connections suggested by mtDNA (female) testing may be more difficult to trace than the results of Y-DNA (male) testing.



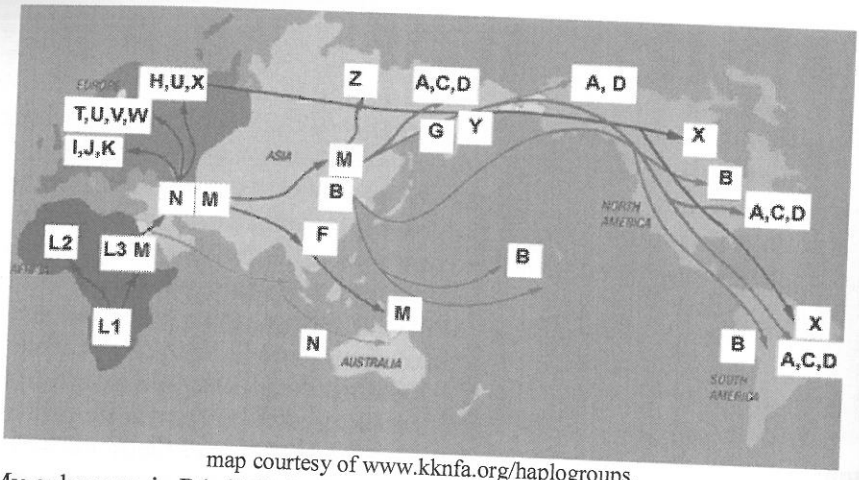
SEVEN DAUGHTERS OF EVE

The pioneer in this field of study was Bryan Sykes, a Professor of Human Genetics at Oxford University in England. He began a search for his own relatives by following Darwin's concept of tracing families through names, which Sykes then wanted to confirm through the newly available DNA testing. He discovered that people tend to cluster into a relatively small number of groups, defined by the precise sequence of their mtDNA. All humans belong to a Haplogroup, an ancestral clan whose markers permit geneticists to study how modern humans came to inhabit the world. Haplogroups represent the branches of the tree for Homo Sapiens. Everyone in the world can be located on one branch or another by a test that looks for a rare mutation (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism) on the male Y-chromosome. The nickname for the testing procedure used to establish one's Haplogroup is SNP and it is pronounced as it appears.

In Europe about 95% of the population falls into approximately twelve haplogroups, categorized by the letters I, M, H, J, K, N1, T, U4, U5, V, X and W (most common European lineages). To make things confusing, scientists categorize both male and female haplogroups by the same letters of the alphabet. This creates some overlap between the letters of the Y-DNA (paternal line) and mtDNA (maternal line) haplogroups. So know which one you are looking at. The results for male and female letters may change the final outcome.

Among Native Americans, there are five groups, A, B, C, D, and X. Among Japanese people there are fifteen (several overlap with Native American groups) and so on. The largest diversity occurs in Africa. Sykes and others have defined about 40 of these distinctions worldwide, but this may expand as the studies continue.

Each of these major haplogroups, or clades, can have subgroups, or subclades. In my case (the author), my mtDNA is Haplogroup H. It is widespread in Europe and across Central Asia, thus the descriptive 'Indo-European'. Recent studies indicate it may have originated in India.



map courtesy of www.kknfa.org/haplogroups.

My subgroup is R1 (R1b is the most common in European groups). This is followed by a sequence of numbers: 160-93C, 162-12A, etc. Several of my numbers suggest that one of my ancient grandmothers may have been Japanese (Ainu) and another was Basque.. Japanese ancestry was quite a surprise. The Basque ancestor was totally in keeping with what one might expect to find from my family in France. Basques are on the French-Spanish mountainous border regions. They are distinctive both for their language, (Basque is apparently the only Western European language that does not belong to the Indo-European family of languages) and for their rare blood groups, O and RH negative, which originated here. My family is a carrier of the RH negative blood group that occurs in only about 14% of the world's population. (My daughter carries the rarest blood type on earth.) Geneticists generally claim the Rh-negative factor is a mutation of unknown origin, or, as some astrobiologist suggest, a blend of two species. [374]

Logically, each of the forty known haplogroups must trace back to just one woman, the common maternal ancestor of everyone in her group or clan. These women did not live in the same time and place. But these 'clan mothers' are the only ones whose maternal lineage survives unbroken right through to the present day. All of the other lines ended when a woman somewhere in the line did not have a daughter. All of these major maternal lines go back further in time to "Mitochondrial Eve."

Y and Mitochondrial DNA go back in a straight line virtually unchanged. However, Y & Mitochondrial are a very small part of your total DNA. Most of your DNA is 'autosomal'.

You get 50-50, equal markers from both parents.

Y is passed from father to son only.

Mitochondrial is passed from mother to both sons and daughters but only the daughters pass it on to their children.

Autosomal DNA is passed from both parents 50-50.

In just six generations, you are directly descended from approximately 510 individuals.

Of that 510 you get your mitochondrial from only 8 past females. If you are a male, it is the same; you get your Y DNA from only 8 past males. However, you get your autosomal DNA from all 510. At 10 generations back, an individual has up to 1024 unique ancestors (fewer if ancestor cousins interbred). Y-DNA or mtDNA test is only studying one of those ancestors (you).

A DNA test can show your ancestors' trail through the world since the evolution of your first ancestor; if you are female, a test of your MtDNA will not show any paternal line at all, only the possible origin of your mother, her mother, your great grandmother etc. You do not carry your father's Y-DNA. He, your brother, father's brother, or your father's father, or a male cousin on your father's side, would also need to be tested to show your father's genetic origins.

Human cells contain 23 pairs of chromosomes: 22 pairs of autosomes, and one pair of sex chromosomes. Females carry a pair of X chromosomes that can swap, or recombine, similar regions of DNA during meiosis. However, males harbor one X chromosome and one Y chromosome, and significant recombination between these dissimilar sex chromosomes does not occur.

Therefore, the non-recombining region of the Y chromosome (NRY) remains largely unchanged over many generations, directly passed from father to son, son to grandson, and so on.

Scientists can use genetic variations as markers of human ancestry and migration. A variation that is common in Sweden (such as blue eyes and platinum hair) may not appear at all in Mongolia, and so forth.

Now with improved DNA testing, Brian Sykes's 'Out of Africa' theory is being rewritten because strange new hybrid species of humans have been identified. Genome analysis suggests there was rare interbreeding between modern humans, Neanderthals, Denisovans and a new, unknown archaic population that inhabited Siberia, parts of Asia, and Europe half million years ago, much further back in time than previously known.[375]

TYPES OF DNA TESTS

If you have, say, just the first 12 markers tested, that will give an indication of where you originated. The more markers your test covers, the more expensive the costs, but more information is gained. If you test on the maximum of, say 67 markers, it is possible to find a match in one of the online data bases to someone else carrying your own, or a different surname, and to prove a link where perhaps no "paper trail" exists. It can therefore pinpoint a place in which your ancestors probably lived in recent history.

DNA test results for any one person will include many numerical values. But those numbers won't mean much by themselves. Meaningful information

in DNA genealogy comes from comparisons. If two people have a match of many numbers, they are sure to have a common ancestor. As the DNA data bases grow, you can look through these for more matches, hence, more relatives. The more numerical matches you find in someone else, the more closely you are related. Unless you have a very rare set of markers, your least specific test comparisons (least expensive tests) will probably reveal many common matches. However, these people can't all be close relatives. The HVR1 test indicates to which of the major 40 World (10 for 99% of Europeans) haplogroups you belong. This could include millions of people. If it is a rare Haplogroup, it could be a much smaller number of people who match you. Full sequencing of mtDNA is equivalent to 41 markers on the Y-chromosome for genealogical use in the strict female line.

The money you spend on DNA genealogy testing can save you a lot of time and effort in building your family tree. For example, you can focus on families that definitely relate to you instead of looking at everyone who happens to share the same surname. Sometimes DNA genealogy will disprove an assumed relationship. There may have been an adoption, or an illegitimate child, or simple changes in family names. If that happens in your tree, you can quit wasting time on a false line with no biological connection to you. Instead, you can use your DNA connections to help discover the true line, even if that person died generations ago, if the tomb is known, DNA may be recovered and compared with you. DNA does not, obviously, have a surname attached to it; surnames have only been used for around 700 years. Your DNA originated 10s of thousands of years ago. At some point your ancestors and mine shall meet up on the DNA trail. We all began from the same common source. Scientists have pinpointed several near extinction events that left just a dozen or so pre-humans on the planet. We all grew from that little band of lucky survivors.

Finally, Y-DNA, mtDNA, and autosomal DNA tests can all introduce you to genetic cousins who descend from common ancestors. Besides the friendships that often develop, these cousins could have information on your family that you haven't found yet. This alone can save you a tremendous amount of research.

You can also have a SNP test that will help show the migratory pattern of your ancient ancestors. You can join a Surname project and sometimes receive discounted prices on your tests. Research the companies and the various tests they offer; to date the prices range from $99.00 to almost $400.00 (U.S. dollars) for DNA tests. You should try to obtain both maternal (mother) and paternal (father) tests to complete your genetic profile.

MORE ABOUT DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID

Biology is the science concerned with the study of life. Astro-Biology studies life that may be found beyond earth, on meteorites, on the moon and on other planets.

Photons of light are capable of storing memory and using logic. Light can 'think' and react intelligently. But is this life? Can photons react within and without space to change results of other things in its environment?

For humans to produce 'copies' of themselves a master plan is needed, and that is in the form of DNA nucleotides. They provide our master blueprint.

The sequence of nucleotides determines individual hereditary characteristics. DNA can be arranged in many combinations that constantly change from generation to generation. This is evolution. It allows things to change and adapt as circumstances require. The DNA nucleotides determine if a germ or a giraffe will be made from the master blueprint.

All living things on earth share the same DNA material. If you are a germ or a giant, your DNA will be an arrangement of the same four letters shuffled repeatedly. It is estimated that 30 billion species have come and gone on earth, all experiments based on just those four DNA letters.

DNA can be damaged by many different mutagens and interference, all of which can change the normal DNA sequence. Scientists search for genes involved in disease. A recent review lists 17 conditions of the nervous system alone, including Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease, can result from a small error in DNA coding. Scientists also see very large-scale abnormalities that arise when



DNA does not follow a prescribed and predicted building block. Understanding these changes leads to curing disease. It is also how scientists identify the origins and journeys of ancient people.[376]

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Maori child, New Zealand.

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WHAT IS A GENOME?

A genome is the entire DNA in an organism, including its genes. Genes carry information for making all the proteins required by all organisms. These proteins determine, among other things, how the organism looks, how well its body metabolizes food or fights infection, and sometimes even how it behaves.

The Human Genome Project (HGP) was one of the great feats of exploration in history, an inward voyage of discovery rather than an outward exploration of the planet or the cosmos; an international research effort to sequence and map all of the genes, together known as the genome., of members of our species, *Homo sapiens*. Completed in April 2003, the HGP gave us the ability, for the first time, to read nature's complete genetic blueprint for building a human being.

DNA is made up of four similar chemicals (called bases and abbreviated A, T, C, and G) that are repeated billions of times throughout a genome.. The human genome, for example, has 3 billion base pairs.

The particular order of As, Ts, Cs, and Gs is extremely important. The order underlies all of life's diversity. An over-simplification, a sequence of ACTG may be the intestines of a human, whereas ATGC might be part of a sequence for a tubeworm that lives hundreds of feet under water on a hot thermal vent.

The combinations run into the hundreds of millions. Just these four letters-this one code has resulted in over *30 billion* species on earth to date! All organisms are related through similarities in DNA sequences; hence, insights gained from nonhuman genomes often lead to new knowledge about human biology as well. The search is on to discover if life anywhere else in the universe follows a DNA blueprint similar to life on earth, or if each planet has its own unique DNA signature of completely different letter combinations.

ARE THERE BENEFITS TO STUDY DNA? AN EXAMPLE: RNA, BLOOD TYPE

Knowledge about the effects of DNA variations among individuals can lead to revolutionary new ways to diagnose, treat, and someday prevent thousands of disorders, providing us with new clues to understanding human biology. For example, 29 human blood group systems are now recognized. Among these is a rare RH negative factor that occurs in my family. Through DNA testing, it was traced back to the Basque people of France, where it first appeared in the human population about 10,000 years ago.[378] Through DNA testing, it may someday be possible to save the life of a child at risk from Rh-negative blood passing from its mother.

HOW FAR BACK CAN ANCIENT DNA BE RECOVERED?

[379]Raul J. Cano and Monica K. Borucki have discovered, and have actually revived (brought back to life), over 1,000 types of bacteria and other microorganisms that had been dormant for millions of years. William D. Rosenzweig and Russell H. Vreeland, of Penn. University, have isolated and revived bacteria from salt deposits that are 250 million years old.[380] Another scientist has revived bacillus and other bacteria from salt deposits more than 500 million years old. However, not *all* DNA can survive that long.

Basic amino acids that can build DNA chains have ridden it out on 'soft' meteorites, known as carbonaceous chondrites, are recovered from glaciers. They may be the remnants of long dead planets where life once thrived. When meteorites land in a suitable environment, they disintegrate and release the building blocks of life, and life can start again. We cannot know if the DNA on earth is common throughout the universe until we acquire DNA from sources far outside Earth. This process is very well expressed in the parable of Jesus and the sower of seeds:

Luke 8:4-8

> A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And some fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bore fruit a hundredfold.

The universe may be teeming with life, life that is a constant recycling of itself, much like everything else in the universe. Our genetics may be unique to this planet, or they may have arrived here as recycled life from far away in another corner of the Universe. Scientists have already identified the basic building blocks of life on meteorites, having survived billions of years through space, and billions of years of time passing as the meteorites journeyed through space. This means that somewhere out there, life like ours probably has DNA like ours, and our DNA may be a reshuffling of life that existed long ago and far away.

THE DNA OF TALPIOT and SAINT LUKE

Luke was a Christian leader who authored both the *Gospel of Luke* and *Acts of the Apostles*. The Roman Catholic Church venerates him as patron saint of physicians. His feast day is celebrated every October 18th. To anyone's current knowledge, there is no indication that Luke was related to the family of Jesus. He is not always counted as one of the original 70 apostles, those believed to be direct bloodline members of Jesus' family.

So Luke may, or may not, have been a cousin or another blood relative of Jesus. We cannot be certain until we build a DNA profile, including the blood type as much as possible.

In 2001, Dr. Guido Barbujani, a population geneticist at the University of Ferrara, Italy, extracted DNA from a tooth found in the original lead coffin that held the body of Saint Luke. Here are the results:

Luke--Haplo Type, H---Partial number sequences, 162-35G, 162-91T.

His full DNA result indicates that Luke was a Syrian. Recalling the ancient stone wall found in Kashmir, in a style that exists only in Syria and in Harwan, instills a reminder that Syria was a most important place in the early formative years of Christianity. His DNA results are thus in keeping with Biblical-historical information that we have.

We are on the right track in building a DNA profile to establish the origins of the Jesus family. Whether you believe they were Egyptian, Semitic, Hebrew, North African, Tocharian, European, Asian, Kashmiri, or Brahmin (as in Abraham as Brahma) we can determine this with a huge degree of historical accuracy. We can then begin to establish the validity of anyone who claims to be in the Jesus-Magdalene-Marjan bloodline, whether they are crackpots or queens. Geneticists would prefer to see at least three match points between individual DNA patterns (male to male, or female to female) in order to declare, with certainty, that they had any genetic or family link. The more matches, the closer the relationships.

CAN DNA PROVE ROZA BAL IS THE TOMB OF JESUS?

Yes and No. The results of several disciplines will have to be evaluated together. When DNA and the blood type can be recovered from the Roza Bal tomb, it will prove nothing except that a 2,000-year-old man is buried there, unless we can bring together a whole spectrum of tests and circumstantial evidence.

There exists the possibility that corpses may have been switched or tampered with when the grave was re-opened to bury Sayed Nasir ud Din. This is why it is vital that DNA and blood types be obtained from *both* men buried at Roza Bal.

The blood stains on the Sudarium are a perfect match to the blood stain pattern on the Shroud of Turin. Both are blood type AB, although the RH factor, plus or negative, has not been determined. Both clothes once covered the same person during the same event. The ancient pollen on both clothes also matches. If the blood and DNA tests from Roza Bal tomb also match, then we have built a very strong case for all three being connected with the same person, Jesus.

There are claimants living within walking distance of Roza Bal who believe Yuz Asaf is Jesus *and* that he is their ancestor. Obtaining DNA from Roza Bal will ensure them the opportunity to compare their DNA and know with certainty.

The entire world will also be able to know with certainty. Over two billion people, one third of the human population on earth are Christians, and it continues to remain the fastest growing of all world religions. Clearly, this research is vital to the entire world. We have the graves at Machpelah for Abraham and Sarah that would yield DNA. The alleged grave for King David has been desecrated- and no one knows if there are any remains inside. December 2012, it was attacked again by unknown persons who completely destroyed a large number of 17th century Islamic tiles in the tomb, and the Antiquities Authority decided to not reconstruct them. There are many more ancient Biblical graves in the region that would yield DNA.

There is a grave in Kashgar, China, called the grave of Bibi Injeel, the Lady from the Bible. Researchers continue to work in that area, routinely gathering DNA from Tocharian mummies. It would not be difficult to obtain her DNA for a Biblical genetic profile. This may be the elusive grave of Magdalene or Marjan. It is in the Old City area of Kashgar, due to be bull-dozed soon to make way for new office buildings.

The Tomb of Jesus in Talpiot[381] has yielded DNA, but to whom does it belong? The remains were thrown in a common ossuary shared with several people. There is nothing to compare that DNA with in order to establish any kind of family relationships. Although the ossuary provided ancient DNA, it is meaningless.

We do not know who "this" Talpiot Tomb Jesus really was. It could well be that he was just a man with the same name, common to the area of that time. DNA was also obtained from the Shroud of Turin, but it, too, is meaningless unless it can be connected with other historical and/or living people. That is why it is so necessary to build as broad a profile as possible, to get samples from every alleged grave, no matter how remote or improbable the ancient legends may seem at first. Even the seemingly outrageous claims for the graves of Manu-Noah in Pakistan, Mother Mary in Murree, Moses and Aaron and Zipporah in Bandipore, and even a grave of Jesus in France or Japan, could yield surprising results that might shed light on who they were, how long ago they existed, and how their legends began.

FAMOUS PEOPLE DNA[382]:

Paglicci- Italy 28,000 years ago Cambridge Reference Sequence H?
Cheddar Man- England 9,000+ years ago: 161-92T, 162-70T U5a?
Ötzi the Iceman- Italy 5,300 years ago: 162-24C, 163-11C K?
The Norwich Anglo-Saxon- England 1,000 years ago: 161-89A, 162-23T, 162-71C, 162-78T X?
Starchild SA-1- Mexico 900 years ago: 223-T, 290-T, 319-A?
Starchild SCS-1- Mexico 900 years ago: 223-T, 298-C, 325-C, 327-T C?
Juanita the Ice Maiden- Peru 500 years ago: 161-11T, 162-23T, 162-90T, 163-

Nonosabasut- Newfoundland 190 years ago: 093C, 189-C, 213-A, 223-T, 278-T X2
Demasduit- Newfoundland 190 years ago: 223-T,298-C,325-C,327-T C —
Tsar Nicholas Romanov- T 161-26C, 161-69Y*, 162-94T, 162-96T 73G
Count Trubetskoy- T 161-26C, 161-69Y, 162-94T, 162-96T 73G, 263G, 315.1C
Tsarina Alexandra- H 161-11T, 163-57C 263G, 315.1C
Marie Antoinette- H 165-19C 152C, 194T, 263G, 315.1C
Jesse James- T2 161-26C, 162-74A, 162-94T, 162-96T, 163-04C
Petrarch- J2 161-26C, 161-93T, 163-11C
Prince Philip- H 16111T, 163-57C 263G, 315.

DNA testing has revealed that Prince William will become the first British monarch of Indian ancestry. A clear genetic line has been drawn between the Duke of Cambridge and a half-Indian woman, potentially marking him as the first King whose bloodline is descended from the country. The genetic link with India is believed to originate from Williams's great-great-great-great-great grandmother, then passed down through Princess Diana's mother, the Hon. Frances Burke Roche.

There are many bone relics around the world that could be used to build up a database for the Jesus family saga. There are bone relics for Saint Thomas, Magdalene, Mother Mary, Saint John, Moses, Aaron, Joseph; father of Jesus, even a grave in Sialkot claimed to be Manu-Noah.. From Cairo to Odessa, to Ephesus and France, there are bone relics that can yield valuable clues to history. Even the tooth relics of Gautama Buddha could be an addition to this genetic profiling. Could he and Jesus have been related?

For the first 100 years after the birth of Christ, we cannot be certain of the lineage. Some modern authors created links between the Merovingian[383] sea monster legends, and the fish symbol used by early Christians, and built up a theory that the fish represented the secret children of Jesus, the desposyni. This is why the modern searches have focused primarily on the Merovingian line. It was an unsubstantiated theory, but it captured public imagination through such books as *'Holy Blood, Holy Grail"* and *"Bloodline of the Holy Grail."*

Any blood relatives of Christ are referred to as Desposyni or Rex Deus (Latin for 'King-God') pertaining to the blood-relatives of Jesus through his mother, Mary.

You will discover many bloodline charts, some traced through Egyptian pharaohs, some through Caesars, and some through early Jewish and Christian families. Some begin in India, some in Jerusalem, Rome, Alexandria, Ireland, England, Scotland, or Wales, and of course several Nordic- Druid-Scandinavian links (to Odin-Woten). Various legends have the Merovingians as descendants of the Vikings or the Trojans.

Hebrews had a significant presence in Egypt for thousands of years. The connection to Hebrews, the Bible, and the land of Egypt is almost as old as Israel itself. Some Egyptologists strongly believe that Moses was in fact the Pharaoh Akhenaten. The connections between Celts, Franks, Pharaohs, Ptolemys, Hasmoneans, and King David have presented endless possibilities for bloodlines to cross.

As the doctrine of perpetual virginity of Mary developed, predominantly in the East, Christians began to regard the siblings of Jesus as children of Joseph by an earlier marriage, and Jerome went on to argue that the 'brothers' and 'sisters' referred to were actually cousins.

Eusebius of Caesarea, wrote the *Historia Ecclesiae*, (1:7:11, 1:7:13-14). He verified that there existed carefully maintained Hebrew records of a Desposyni before and after Christ. Where are these records now?

Bloodline connections with the family of Jesus could come from any direction.

'Rex Deus' by Tim Wallace Murphy-

> 'The search for this bloodline has all the accouterments of a good mystery, cryptically coded documents and tales of secret societies, persecution, and genocide.'[384]

Will Roza Bal yield the DNA of God? Or the DNA of Jesus? Could Jesus be resurrected, recreated or cloned? Could his bloodlines be proven? Could his descendants have spread through the world's gene pool in the millions? Or is the Desposyni of Jesus rarer than a star child? Will we ultimately prove that Roza Bal only holds a simple chowkidar (servant) whose descendants continue to be the tomb's caretakers to this day? We can retrieve the DNA evidence almost as far back as the Elohim of Genesis. Our search for lineages may lead us far out among the stars, where our ancestors may be waiting to greet us. Again.

ANCIENT ALIENS THEN & NOW



Any religion is little more than a collection of texts describing cultural systems, belief systems, and worldviews that relate humanity to spirituality and moral values. No proof of God exists outside these texts. To find a way to God means to put all our faith and trust in the credibility of prophets like Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. Does contact with God exist only in our minds, or only in theirs? Are prophets delusional madmen?

I shudder to think of Jesus that way, delusional, wandering the wilderness barefoot talking to a God that only existed in his head. God can only be explained in psychiatric terms. Everything about religion and spirituality becomes a study of imagination, mythology, and psychiatric disorders, similar to the imaginary reincarnated Magdalenes experiencing the Rashomon effect. Mother Mary never spoke to the angel Gabriel. Moses never parted the Red Sea or received the Ten Commandments. What was their experience that we believe so profoundly and deeply in them?

Now we have entered the Space Age, and 'proving' the existence of God has taken a new turn, a turn to the new frontiers of science and Space.

I embrace this idea of incorporating UFO's in to religion. The Catholic Church also embraces this idea, or it would never have permitted depictions of flying objects at the most celebrated and sacred events in Jesus' life.

Scientists believe the answers to God will not come through gurus, mystics or prophets, but through physics and quantum mechanics. I believe the answer is in the stars. This had significance to the artist a thousand years before man invented flight. Their ancient paintings and modern depictions by pilots and astronauts have changed very little in thousands of years.

The Vatican has acknowledged that there must be intelligent life everywhere in the Universe. Churches have paintings of UFOs at major religious events such as the birth and crucifixion of Jesus. The appearance of wings on angels may be the visual way to convey the message that they got here by flight, yet they are not birds. They look, act, and speak very much like us, with the one exception....earth is not their home.



Science-fiction writer Arthur C. Clark said-'Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.'

FROM ICE AGE TO SPACE AGE

How could anyone who lived 2 or 3,000 years ago describe flight in metallic machines? We know that mankind did not learn to fly in metallic objects until the Wright Brother's first airplane in 1903. The obvious question is, 'who was flying those metallic objects before this?'

Imagine that Jesus really did talk with angels and really did ascend to God in the physical literal meaning. *Acts 1:9-11* tells us that his apostles witnessed this and reacted as casually as if Jesus was a daily commuter on his way to work, and he would return by the same route. They were not trembling in fear at the sight of them. They did not have a terrifying, strange demeanor. There was no concern for Jesus's safety, and he gave no indication that he was being abducted against his will. In other words, we have witnesses. Jesus was not merely another delusional prophet.

This dramatically elevates his image from humble barefoot prophet to someone really special and unique, like Captain of the Star Fleet.

> 'In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to (prepare a place for you). '(John 14:2)

Could 'many mansions' be space colonies or other planets with intelligent life similar to ours? Why not! And his words sound like an invitation to us all.

Eric Von Daniken is co-founder of the Archaeology, Astronautics and SETI Research Association[385] (AAS RA). His 26 books have been translated into more than 20 languages, selling more than 60 million copies worldwide, and his documentary TV shows have been viewed around the world. He and others believe our world has been visited by beings from other worlds, and their contact with humans has been the foundation for all religions. Is God merely an alien life form? I don't believe so. I think all ancient scriptures make it quite clear there are 'gods' and there is God.

The Ten Commandments may be an instruction manual, an introduction to rules of good behavior applicable in Space.

We know that evolution is true. We contain the same basic four-letter DNA strands as ancient pond scum that has been on earth for billions of years. All life on earth is represented by exactly the same four-letter DNA codes in endless combinations that create fractal systems within fractal systems in endless possibilities for survival and continuation. Although earth was bombarded with billions of meteorites containing amino acids, making for billions of potential combinations, only one DNA combination defines how all life on *this* earth will be. We did not really need a miracle to arrive at the chemical cocktail for early life, just a decently large asteroid with the right components. That's all. We are living proof that it has happened at least once. The question for science-astrobiology today is to determine how this applies to other places and other planets.

Power laws (think fractals) describe scaling relationships that are features of biodiversity. At least some of the documented power laws appear to be

universal: they apply to plants, animals and microbes; to terrestrial, marine and freshwater habitats; and to human-dominated as well as 'natural' ecosystems. The study of scaling is one powerful way of simplifying ecological complexity and of understanding the physical and biological principles that regulate biodiversity.[386]

You have approximately the same proportion of water in your body as the ratio of earth to water, which is about 70%.

Whatever scale we measure, similar approximations exist for all life. (This is sometimes called the Fibonacci sequence.) A mathematical geometry/symmetry seems to exist everywhere in the Universe.

This is why the Biblical sons of gods may have found a genetic match with us. We may be sharing remarkably similar DNA delivered courtesy of a few meteorites carrying remnants from previous planetary life forms. Can DNA be manipulated between species to make a 'fit', a new hybrid species? Yes.

Scientists can now add additional letters to the DNA code to alter life. This is proving valuable when fighting strains of virus like HIV.

'Astrobiology Magazine' reports-

> 'DNA polymerases have evolved for billions of years to accept the four natural letters in DNA -- A, T, C, and G. Coaxing them to accept two new letters, like K and X, was difficult... A nucleotide is a building block of DNA, a "letter" in the genetic alphabet used to write our genetic inheritance.
>
> "The potential implications of this in diagnosis and medicine are clear," said Steven Benner, a UF distinguished professor of chemistry and anatomy and cell biology and the lead researcher on the study. "This technology will enhance our ability to detect unwanted genetic material from viruses, bacteria and even biological warfare agents. It will also streamline our ability to detect defects in natural DNA, such as those responsible for cancers and genetic diseases. '[387]

The chemical fingerprints of potentially life-building molecules have been detected in the Orion nebula by Europe's Herschel Space Observatory. The Orion Nebula is a beautiful stellar nursery brimming with gas, dust, and infant stars. It is known to be one of the most prolific chemical factories in space, and is bubbling with the building blocks of life.

The Herschel Space Observatory found that the nebula contains all the molecules needed for the creation of life: water, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, methanol, dimethyl ether, hydrogen cyanide, sulphur oxide, sulphur dioxide and their isotope analogues. This is the most exciting discovery to date, suggesting that all life in the Universe begins with the same chemical components.[388]

Just because all these chemicals exist is no guarantee that they are pre-programmed to magically combine and begin organizing and thinking' for themselves. The chemicals for life will remain inert forever. Nothing resem-

bling a definition of life will ever happen to them. A lump of coal becomes part of earth. It has been and will be a lump of coal for all eternity. Iron, potassium, sodium, and calcium are essential elements of our body, but they are not life. This is where the concept of God enters. God is the ultimate thinker working on an enormous universal scale instead of the small, limited scale of mice and men.

> 'Out of the cradle onto dry land, here it is standing, these atoms with consciousness, this matter with curiosity.' [389] Richard Feynman

In order for the universe to work as it is expected to work, it needs a translator, a clockmaker, a thinker; someone who knows how to read and assemble the DNA codes, to organize the atoms and molecules and lumps of coal into something breathing, thinking, feeling. It still needs God. When speaking about quantum mechanics, Chris Michael Langan [390] said-

> 'DNA is a macromolecule, a physical, material object. The information contained in a tiny string of DNA or protein can achieve everything, but there must be a cognitive force in place to read and interpret it correctly. Information is meaningless without a 'material transducer.' There has to be a relationship existing between physical and deep reality, or, put simply, mind over matter. Some level of cognizance is required to identify matter, and the information processes of understanding it. Language is a mathematical paradigm unto itself. Every formula or working theory of science and mathematics is a language. Every sentient creature constantly affirms the linguistic structure of nature so it can perceive, conceptualize, and refer to it.'[391]



OUTLOOK FOR CHRISTIANITY

Religions are approaching a critical point. Looking at photos of galaxies sent back to us by space telescopes like the Hubble, we realize that we can't possibly be alone in the Universe. We realize that our concepts of spirituality and religion are changing, and their old forms may be abandoned altogether. In a thousand years "God Bless You" might be replaced with "May the Force be with You." Would that be a significant change? Not really. It reflects the inner state of mind, and that will not change so quickly.

Deism, polytheism, monotheism, atheism, Pantheism, Henotheism, Monolatry, we have tried them all. We are born onto a level field with equal intelligence, dreams, aspirations, and, generally, a belief in an afterlife, a soul, a mystery that needs explaining when all other rational explanations fail us. Thus far, all religions have failed us because they have failed to be proven. Heaven, Moksha, Shangri-La, Nirvana, Atman, Paradise...do they exist only in our minds?

Yet every now and then there is a breakthrough, a communication with another dimension, or an unexplained miracle...mysteries that keep us believing and seeking exploring the unknown.

Spirituality does not come from religion. It comes from our soul.
Anthony Douglas Williams-Inside the Divine Pattern

Let's go back to square one. Let's assume all that Jesus said and did was/is true. Does this hold up to examination in the Space Age? Let us assume that we are *not* alone in the universe, and *he knew that*. Now, when you read John 14:2, *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you"*....Or Matthew 6:10, *"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

If there is a God then every sentient being in space knows this too, and we all abide by the same rules.

Something about *us* may be ethically holding them back, and I strongly suspect the Ten Commandments from Moses- without abrogations or later add-ons-is a big clue. If the Elohim, or fallen angels, married women from earth, they may have crossed a forbidden line that led to their 'falling' from grace. It suggests they broke some rules of their community. It suggests there are rules binding upon all who colonize space. It is a very easy mental exercise to imagine your life in a space colony with no hope of ever returning to earth. What rules would everyone live by there? Are most of the Ten Commandments applicable under those circumstances? Here they are...would they work equally well on a space colony?

Exodus 20:1-17

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet.

And here are the five Buddhist precepts (Hindus also have ten)

1. I undertake to abstain from killing.
2. I undertake to abstain from taking what is not given.
3. I undertake to avoid sexual misconduct.
4. I undertake to abstain from false speech.
5. I undertake to abstain from fermented drink that causes heedlessness.

Most religions are distinguished by their codes of dress, of rituals for prayer, for shaving or not shaving, circumcision (or not), to light a fire, to pray facing east or west, to kneel and bow (or not) to kill animals for sacrifice, to wear specific articles of clothing… are these ideas practical or even possible in a Space environment? No! Jesus rightly foresaw 'religion in Space.' He prayed frequently. (Matt. 14:23; 26:36; Mark 6:46; Luke 5:16; John 17).

He said in Mathew 6:6-

> 'But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thine inner chamber, shut the door, pray to thy Father in secret, and thy Father who sees in secret shall recompense thee.'

'Enter into thy closet' - Every Jewish house had a place for secret devotion where the pious Jew might offer his prayers, unseen by any but the Knower of hearts and minds. This is commonly mentioned in the New Testament as the "upper room," the closet, the place for secret prayer. The inner chamber is not a physical place, but a state of mind. The message is that God reacts to prayers, and meditation is a form of prayer too. Prayer is a way of harnessing energies through universal laws of physics. It's a way of 'tuning in' to the universe. Hindus and Buddhists practice this much more frequently than Jews and Christians. Author-Minister Barry Downing interprets Jesus saying "heaven is in the midst of us- already here..." suggests that *Heaven might be an entirely different universe right in the midst of us*, the result of other dimensions, of space-time warps. (p.182)

In over 1,000 published research studies, various methods of prayer, contemplation, and meditation have been linked to changes in metabolism,

blood pressure, and brain wave activation. It does amazing things for the mind. Saint Padre Pio said-

> 'Through the study of books one seeks God; by meditation one finds him.'

We enter the Space Age and expect to soar across the Universe. Jesus made ascensions. The only difference is that he went faster and farther than we are yet capable of doing. But we are learning!

Jesus never mistook 'aliens' or angels for God. He said that some highly intelligent force that we identify with God *does* exist 'out there' in a place called Heaven. He spoke of things that were advanced for our time. He gave us information that is powerful, useful, important, and still applicable more than 2,000 years later. It may be the information we have needed to prepare for the Space Age—to finally meet the angels who arrived in silvery clouds and whirling machines...when they are ready and when we are ready.

Once I naively thought all religions represented the same God. I attended whatever mosque or temple or church that my friends attended, believing all were equal. God could be Anu, Ra, Apollo, Apis, Osiris, Allah, Al Lat, Krishna, Brahma, Dharmakaya, Yahweh or Jehovah.

That was a naïve view, and a dangerous one. Now I realize that anyone can become a prophet, start a new religion and claim it's all divinely inspired. A wise and prudent person has to look very carefully before committing himself to any claims to divine contact made by evangelists, gurus and prophets. They are *not* all the same. Certainly we cannot continue our journey to Space unless we resolve our conflicts here. Certainly we will not endure another thousand years of slaughtering one another. We have to find the way through.

Long ago on the Old Silk Road someone asked me, "What prophet do you follow?" I never thought about the world in those terms then, but I do now.
I believe it is the single most important decision we can make in our lives- for it will determine how we live each day, and each lifetime. We have important decisions to make about religion and faith, spirituality and souls, our common sense and our moral compasses.

Among us are cruel, dangerous, treacherous, deranged hurtful people capable of inflicting terrible horrors against mankind, people who are at the very depths of depravity.
And yet there are also incredible people who represent the best of mankind, who set the standards exceedingly high. When we are good, we are very good, and the good examples give us hope and show us the potential for all mankind.

If I were asked today "what prophet do you follow?" my answer would be very different, very carefully thought through. Jesus had hope for mankind. He believed in us and saw the good. I like to think of Jesus as Captain of the Star Fleet looking back, remembering us and his promises to us.... preparing a place for us when earth is no more. Religion and science both agree this is

not only possible, but probable. We got a special invitation, and now we are on our way to the stars, to places that Jesus spoke of, to places he already called home.

We've been assured that those same heavens are our destiny and I believe it's true.



"We began as wanderers, and we are wanderers still. We have lingered long enough on the shore of the cosmic ocean. We are ready at last to set sail for the stars." Carl Sagan



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ENDNOTES

[1] 'The Demarest Family A Record of the DesMarets Family in France, the Holy Land in the Crusades, Again in France, Holland, the Palatinate (Germany), Again in Holland, and the Migration to America, 1663'-Two Volumes. Compiled by Voorhis D. Demarest.1964

[2] ethnicgenome.wordpress.com/2009/03/04/the-race-of-sephardic-jews/

[3] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetics_and_archaeogenetics_of_South_Asia

[4] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viking_behavior

[5] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_haplogroups_of_notable_people#Tutankhamun

[6] rhedesium.com/the-merovingians-ndash-how-history-somehow-forgothellippart-one.

[7] Today there are numerous variations of Des Marets worldwide, including Demaree, Demori, Du Mareys, Demarais, Maret, Marais, and many more.

[8] The House of Bousis has been traced to Kortrijk (Belgium; Courtrai in French; Cortoriacum in Latin) a Belgian city and municipality in West Flanders, located at a busy intersection of roads near the Leie river. The author's family has been traced with certainty to Lideric and Odacre, whose son was Baldwin1 (Baudouin) Count of Flanders.

[9] *James the Brother of Jesus: The Key to Unlocking the Secrets of Early Christianity and the Dead Sea Scrolls* by Robert Eisenmen (Penguin Books ,1998)

[10] USA Today Magazine, online, July 18, 2006, by Carol Memmott, article about 'visions' of Magdalene. Also, VolkerW's web blog dated 07-18-06: "Kathleen McGowan says she has proof being from the sacred bloodline made famous in *The Da Vinci Code*." (She failed to produce proof, and later retracted this story and produced several other stories, equally impossible to prove and often defying historical fact). Also, see The Jesus Blog Spot, online.

[11] wingtv.net/darkmission.html; retrieved March 10, 2014.

[12] phys.org/news Scientists breed goats that produce spider silk- Lisa Zyga, 05-31-10.

[13] uforesearchnetwork.com exopolitics.org/Exo-Comment-97.htm

[14] truth11.com/2013/06/06/

[15] eupedia.com 19/02/2010 'Pharaoh Tutankhamen, Akhenaten &Amenhotep were R1b'

[16] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DNA_history_of_Egypt

[17] Shroud of Turin website-shroud.com/pdfs/kearse.pdf.*and* shroud.com/guscin.htm

[18] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shroud_of_Turin provides the arguments for and against this blood test being from the victim or later handlers of the cloth.

[19] S. Freud, *Moses and Monotheism*. London: Hogarth Press (1964).

[20] Al-Tirmidhi Hadith 3834, Narrated byAl-Miqdam ibn Ma'dikarib: *Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said, "The martyr receives six good things from Allah... He is married to seventy-two wives from among the maidens with large dark eyes..."* Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah transmitted it.

[21] Ahmaddis are a modern form of Islam that promotes peace. They are considered as non-Muslims to the rest of the Muslim world because of the reforms and ideas that they recommend, and because their founder cannot be a prophet of God. According to Islam, Muhammad was the final prophet.

[22] New York Times science article ;'Baffling 400,000-Year-Old Clue to Human Origins' by Carl Zimmer, December 4, 2013.

[23] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denisova_hominin
[24] nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2011/aug/HQ_11-263_Meteorites_DNA.
[25] Popular Science Magazine, April 2013, pp 50-54.
[26] *'The Great Flying Saucer Myth'* by Kelly I. Segraves (1975) Beta Books.
[27] Reverend Barry Downing, (1938-) *The Bible and Flying Saucers.* (1997) Reverend Downing is a Presbyterian minister and ancient astronaut proponent.
[28] ufoevidence.org/documents/doc814.
[29] There are now hundreds of space telescopes examining the Universe every moment.
[30] mindreality.com/chaos-theory-higher-order-of-all-things
[31] Tabor's Blog March 16, 2014 *'Do Historians Exclude the Supernatural?'*
[32] unexplained-mysteries.com/forum/index.php?showtopic=110537
[33] newadvent.org/cathen/01476d.htm
[34] newadvent.org/cathen/01476d.htm
[35] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UFO_sightings- alist of documented sightings written by witnesses since 214 BCE
[36] celebrateboston.com/ufo/first-ufo-sighting.htm
[37] 'Mind at Light Speed: A New Kind of Intelligence' David D. Nolte.2001 edition, pp.4, 5,6,7,8.
[38] This is the theory of panpsychism as discussed in *'Consciousness, An Introduction'* (p.11) by Susan Blackmore.
[1] From the Interlinear Hebrew Bible, the same quote appears in *Genesis* 6: 'The Nephilim were in the earth in those days, and also afterwards, when the B'nai Elohim came in to the daughters of Adam, and the daughters had children by them. They were Powerful Ones, the heroes who existed in ancient times, the men of renown.'
[40] JBS Haldane, geneticist and evolutionary biologist; 1892-1964. Original source for this quote is unknown.
[41] Bernhard Haisch, staff physicist at the Lockheed Martin Solar and Astrophysics Laboratory in Palo Alto, California, is a scientific editor of *The Astrophysical Journal* and editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*. He wrote *The God Theory, Universes, Zero-Point Fields and What's Behind It All* (published by Weiser Books, April 1, 2009).
[42] Richard Petty's review of the book, *'The God Theory'* by Bernhard Haisch.
[43] *The Seven Daughters of Eve* by Brian Sykes. W. W. Norton & Company
[44] National Geographic online, October 28, 2010, "After Near Extinction, Humans Split in to Isolated Bands" by Amitabh Avasthi.
[45] Noah and Human Etymology by Bengt Sage, Institute for Creation Research
[46] Beveridge (see Bibliography)
[47] Correspondence with Aridaman Singh Dillon of Amristar, Punjab, and his research in that region.
[48] There have been over two hundred attempts to match the biblical chronology to dates in history, two of the more influential being the traditional Jewish dates (Abraham lived 1812 BCE to 1637 BCE), and those of the 17th century Archbishop James Ussher (Abraham lived 1976 BCE to 1801 BCE); but the most that can be said with some degree of certainty is that the standard Hebrew text of Genesis places Abraham in the earlier part of the second millennium BCE. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham
[49] Genesis 17:5 In Sanskrit Brahm means God or 'one of God'.
[50] The World Health Organization (WHO; 2007), the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS; 2007), and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC; 2008) state that evidence indicates male circumcision significantly reduces the risk of HIV and should be

considered in conjunction with other proven prevention measures. Female circumcision, however, is never medically advocated. The American Urological Association (2007) stated that neonatal male circumcision does have potential medical benefits and advantages. Female circumcision is totally unwarranted due to the differences in anatomy.

[51] He said that he based his conclusions on archaeology evidence and on early Norwegian sagas written down by the Icelander, Snorre Sturlason, before his death in 1241-Snorri, The Sagas of the Viking Kings of Norway. English translation: J. M. Stenersens Forlag, Oslo 1987.

[52] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarim_mummies

[53] Aziz Kashmiri, 'Christ in Kashmir' p.155 briefly mentions all these graves without any further details.

[54] Pharaoh kings and queens with light golden or red hair- photos here: www.iluvsa.blogspot.com/2009/04/egyptian-mummies-with-blond-brown-and.html. There are numerous resources available online about the DNA studies for all these groups.

[55] *'The Arctic Home in the Vedas'* is a book on the origin of Aryans by Lokmanya Bâl Gangâdhar Tilak, a mathematician turned astronomer, historian, journalist, philosopher and political leader of India during 1880 to 1920. It propounded the theory that the North Pole was the original home of Aryans during pre-glacial period which they had to leave due to the ice deluge around 8000 B.C. and had to migrate to the Northern parts of Europe and Asia in search of lands for new settlements. In support to his theory Tilak has presented certain Vedic hymns, Avestic passages, Vedic chronology and Vedic calendars with interpretations of the contents in detail. Recent DNA testing lends support to this idea.

[56] www.systematics.org/journal/vol1-3/SJ1-3c.htm

[57] Peter Frost. *European hair and eye color. A case of frequency-dependent sexual selection?* School of Psychology, University of St. Andrews, St. Mary's College, UK, July 7th 2005. ceacb.ucl.ac.uk

[58] Jewish Genetics: Abstracts and Summaries,
Part 1: Jewish Populations, August 10, 2012;Haplotype I was found in 2.4% of ethnic Asian (India) men. The Jewishness comes primarily through the males, who married local women, resulting in the blend of Jewish and local DNA.

[59] Naga/Nagash was also the title 'King' for the ancient Semitic speaking people of modern Ethiopia who lived in Arwe, and ancient kingdom in Punt.

[60] In India, nagas are considered nature spirits and the protectors of springs, wells and rivers. They bring rain and fertility, but are also thought to bring disasters such as floods and drought. Naga can also be a human, usually good spirits associated with springs and water. Naga is also a Sanskrit word for a hooded cobra. Sometimes nagas are depicted as dragons or sea serpents. They are highly revered in India.

[61] Neolithic is regarded as the end of the Stone Age, circa 9,500 years ago, coinciding with the end of the last Ice Age.

[62] Kundalini Research Foundation, *Moses and the Gnostic Rod of Aaron*.

[63] Joseph John Campbell (March 26, 1904 – October 30, 1987) was an American mythologist, writer and lecturer, best known for his work in comparative mythology and comparative religion. His work is vast, covering many aspects of the human experience. His philosophy is often summarized by his phrase: "Follow your bliss."

[64] *1 Kings* 9:28, 10:1, 22:49, *1 Chronicles* 29:4, *2 Chronicles* 8:18, *Book of Job* 22:24, 28:16, *Psalms* 45:9, *Isaiah* 13:12. Peacocks, native only to India, were a trade item, which is why Ophir is believed to be India.

[65] Bharat Ganaraja, Republic of India, is also name of the Second son of Rama, King of Ayodiya and Taxila (Gandhara) hence the region was known as Bharata.

[66] The writing was discovered on a pottery shard dug up in 2009 during excavations at Khirbet Qeiyafa, near Israel's Elah valley. The excavations were carried out by archaeologist Yosef Garfinkel of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

[67] www.torahveda.org/

[68] Flavius Josephus, (37- 100 AD) *History of the Jews*, Book I: 22. Josephus was a Jewish historian, diplomat, and military leader, and the sole source of information concerning numerous events in the final centuries of the Jewish state.

[69] M. Haug was a German scholar who lived in India and specialized in oriental studies. Parsis have his books available online.

[70] Edward Pococke (1604-1691) *India in Greece*, Ch. 8. Pococke was an English Orientalist, a graduate of Oxford, and a Biblical scholar. I retrieved passages from his books from '*Voice of India*'.

[71] The Society of Jesus (known as Jesuits) was founded in 1540 by Saint Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556). It is a Roman Catholic religious order known worldwide for its evangelical, charitable, and educational work as well as for its concern for social issues. 1506–1552 began the first Jesuit to work in India.

[72] http://history-world.org/hyksos.htm

[73] The name Isa- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isa_%28name%29

[74] *The Isavasya Upanishad* by M.M. Ninan-www.scribd.com/doc/59710898/Isavasya-Jesus-in-the-Upanishads

[75] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_%28polygon%29

[76] Jakob Schmitt, Immunbiologische Untersuchungen bei Primaten; S. Karger, New York and Basel, 1968.

[77] www.dadamo.com/knowbase/theory/anthro.htm

[78] www.biotype.net/diets/typeA2.html and anthro.palomar.edu/vary/vary_3.htm

[79] The Fifth Gospel by Fida Hassnain,Blue Dolphin Publishing 2006, p.265,266.

[80] The Hagia Sophia is a cathedral built in Istanbul in 537 on a site where an older church was first inaugurated in 360 AD. It was the largest cathedral in the world for a thousand years and guarded a large collection of Holy relics. In 726, the emperor Leo the Isaurian issued a series of edicts against the veneration of images, ordering the army to destroy all icons – ushering in the period of Byzantine iconoclasm. At that time, all religious pictures and statues were removed from the Hagia Sophia and holy relics were hidden by the priests. Emperor Theophilus (829–842) was strongly influenced by Islamic art, which forbids the representation of living beings. He too had many depictions destroyed. Constantinople was taken by the Ottomans in 1453. Sultan Mehmet II allowed his troops three days of unbridled pillage. Hagia Sophia became the focal point of pillage as the invaders believed it contained the greatest treasures of the city. They battered down the doors. Trapped inside were nuns, priests, the elderly, and women and children. The building was desecrated and occupants enslaved, violated or slaughtered. The priests, the elderly and infirm were killed, women and girls were raped and the remainder chained and sold into slavery. [Runciman. The Fall of Constantinople, pp. 147,148,149]. Sultan Mehmet insisted the Church should at once be transformed into a mosque. One of the Ulama then climbed the pulpit and recited the Shahada. The Church pictures, holy vessels, elaborate candle holders, and especially the ancient relics were all removed. The mosaics depicting Jesus, his Mother Mary, Christian saints and angels were

removed or plastered over. Islamic features were then added to the Church. For the next 480 years it remained a mosque. This is similar to fate of Roza bal tomb when Islam entered Kashmir in force. The tomb was opened and relics removed. Traces of Christianity were destroyed. The tomb was repainted, walls plastered over, anything identifying the building as Christian was removed, destroyed or hidden.

[81] *India in Primitive Christianity*, by Arthur Lille, [1909] view online; sacred-texts.com/bud/ipc/ipc06.htm

[82] Source: Encyclopaedia Judaica. © 2008 The Gale Group F. Bernier, Travels in the Moghul Empire, 1656–58, ed. by A. Constable (1891). ADD. BIBLIOGRAPHY: T. Parfitt, The Lost Tribes of Israel: The History of a Myth (2002).-

[83] Published in New York between 1901 and 1906 by Funk and Wagnall, it contained over 15,000 articles in 12 volumes on Judaism. It is now a public domain resource and can be read at 'library online' websites.

[84] The book called *Sotah* is a part of the Jewish Talmud written in its complete form in the middle part of the fifth century.

[85] Rabbi Israel Chait is Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva B'Nai Torah, Far Rockaway, New York.

[86] Artapanus of Alexandria (2nd century BCE), as recorded by Eusebius of Caesarea.

[87] Hibernian (Irish) form 'arsan' (a sage, someone old in wisdom) and 'arrach' (old, ancient, aged) as related to rishi.

[88] Swami Vivekananda public lecture, Vedanta Voice of Freedom, p.43...and Chopra, Deepak (2006), *Life After Death: The Burden of Proof* (first ed.), Boston: Harmony Books, and *Rishikayen Women Seers in Rig Veda*, article 7, by P.D. Mishra. The Rig Veda mentions Romasha, Lopamudra, Apala, Kadru, Visvavara, Ghosha, Juhu, Vagambhrini, Paulomi, Yami, Indrani, Savitri, and Devajami as among the female rishis acknowledged in the Rig Vedas.

[89] Nearly 40 persons, including 33 militants, five force personnel and two civilians were killed here in various militancy related incidents in 2010, while two persons were killed and 169 were injured in the 4-month summer agitation in 2010. Source: www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2011/Jan/11/.

[90] source: Ophir/Wikipedia

[91] DNA samples from Falasha Jews and Ethiopians were studied. Two haplotypes (V and XI) are the most widespread in Falashas and Ethiopians, representing about 70% of the total number of haplotypes in Ethiopia. Because the Jewish Haplotype VII and VIII are not represented in the Falasha population, this indicates that the Falasha people descended from ancient inhabitants of Ethiopia who converted to Judaism. *Human Biology, 'Origins of Falasha Jews'* by Lucotte G. Smith (International Institute of Anthropology, Dec. 1999).

[92] Jayestha is also a figure based upon the Indian zodiacal calendar, representing the negative aspects of poor wifely behavior.

[93] A History of Persia by P.M. Stykes. McMillan, 1915. Ch.14. Srinagar Library

[94] *Christ in Kashmir* by Aziz Kashmiri. p. 60-61

[95] 'Ha-kim-was': similar to Eli-kim and Eli-mar, are Hebrew descriptive names.

[96] *First Book of Kings*, chapter 10, verses 1 – 10.

[97] In *Genesis 10:7*, she may be a descendant of Joktan through Shem, son of Noah.

[98] Walter RC, Buffler RT, Bruggemann JH, et al. (2000). "Early human occupation of the Red Sea coast of Eritrea during the last interglacial". Nature 405 (6782): 65–9.

[99] csis.org/files/media/csis/pubs/anotes_0202.pdf. Retrieved September 15, 2011.

[100] Medlycott, A.E. *The Apostle Thomas and Gondopharnes the Indian King*. (1905)- *The Acts of the Apostle Thomas*, datable to the second-third centuries AD, also describes a visit of the

Apostle Thomas to Gondopharnes c. AD 40. Several coins recovered from Taxila also commemorate the visit.

[101] *Book of Thomas the Contender*, part of the Nag Hammadi library, Jesus said to Thomas: "Now, since it has been said that you are my twin and true companion, examine yourself..."

[102] Persian is a member of the Iranian branch of Indo-European languages- written with a number of different scripts, including the Old Persian Cuneiform, Pahlavi, Aramaic, and Avestan, Cyrillic and Latin alphabets. After the Islamic conquest of the Persian Sassanian Empire in 642 AD, Arabic became the language of government and culture. Thus, this is pre-Islamic script.

[103] I am indebted to Aridaman Singh Dillon of Amritsar, Punjab, India for his help with the transliterations.

[104] Fida Hassnain (1924-) retired Director of Archives, Archaeology, Research and Museums in Kashmir, India.

[105] Apollonius of Tyana. Theosophy Vol. 24, No. 9, July, 1936 (Pages 385-395)

[106] The same symbol is found on early 2nd-3rd century Merovingian coffins, together with the Star of David.

[107] Ferguson, J. this appears also in *'Christ in Kashmir'* by Aziz Kashmiri.

[108] Philostratus; Jones, Christopher P. (2005), The Life of Apollonius of Tyana, Harvard University Press, p. 2.

[109] www.geocities.ws/nephilimnot/apollonius_of_tyanna.html has a full discussion about the resemblances between Apollonius and the apostle Paul.

[110] *Pythagoras and the Pythagoreans: A Brief History"*, By Charles H. Kahn, Page 19

[111] Kilam, Jiya Lal, Ch.2.

[112] *Converted Kashmir-Memorial of Mistakes: A Bitter Saga of Religious Conversion* by Narender Sehgal.

[113] 138 BCE, Chanukah was celebrated for the first time—complete with the lighting of the Chanukah Menorah.

[114] *Nilat Puran* (historical chronicles) one of the more famous Puranas about Kashmir.

[115] R.S. Pandit explains use of 'prashasti pattas', inscriptions of noble deeds of ancestors left on rocks or scrolls, often sung by bards orally on special occasions. Eventually the custom fell out of use. Historical songs sung by some gypsies and shepherds today still retain elements of ancient accounts of festivals. To my knowledge, the gypsy songs today are the only surviving records mentioning Jesus at Kashmiri festivals. *Rajatarangini*, Introduction, p. 7 notes. (1991).

[116] James Tabor's Blog, Dec. 2009. jamestabor.com

[117] Dec. 25th is also the presumed date of Buddha's birth. However, this seems a newer insertion. Buddha's birth and death was also celebrated in May.

[118] From *Hindu Castes and Sects* by Jogendranath Battacharya. Brahmins in the Indian Continent are divided into two major groups: Panch Gaur and Panch Dravida.

[119] Elder, Isabel Hill.

[120] Buzi in Sanskrit means 'a burden.' However, Buzi in Hebrew means something very different. He was son of the priests, and father of Ezekiel. *Ezekiel* 1:3.

[121] Some scholars claim that Ezekiel was actually Jeremiah or the son of Jeremiah, who was also called 'Buzi. source: Wikipedia

[122] His physical characteristics are described by his wife Yasodhara to his son Rahula in one of the central texts of the traditional Pali canon, the *Digha Nikaya*.

[123] The *Pali Canon* is one the earliest existing scripture collections of Buddhism. These scriptures were recited orally until around the 1st century AD, then written in Pali. When these

were translated from Pali to Sanskrit, changes happened, and a new branch of Buddhism evolved.

[124] The *Lakkhana Sutta*, trait number 30.

[125] Ranajit Pal wrote extensively including *A New Non-Jonesian History of the World* (2003). These books are now out of print. Information retrieved from his website at anajitpal.com.

[126] Seistan (Sejistan-Zabulistan, Zabol) the ancient *Sacastane* "land of the Sacae' [of the Saxons]. Buddha was Sakyamuni of the Sakya clan.

[127] The Gondophar dynasty, and other Indo-Parthian rulers, was a group of ancient kings who ruled in present-day Afghanistan, Pakistan and Northern India, slightly before and after 1st century AD. For most of their history, the leading Gondophar kings held Taxila, but during the last few years of their existence, the capital was at Kabul (present-day Afghanistan).

[128] *Rajatarangini*, R.S. Pandit translation, p.xxxix.

[129] King Suddhodana was the father of Gautama Buddha and king of all the Sakyas (Sons of Isaac).

[130] Hebrew men and women were forbidden to become *pome-kedeshah; Deut.23, 17.*

[131] Herodotus *Histories,* among others, mentioned this widespread custom.

[132] The Council of Jerusalem (Apostolic Conference) is a name applied by historians to an early Christian council dated to around the year 50. Descriptions of the council are found in *Acts of the Apostles*; 15:1-7, and in Paul's letter to the *Galatians*, Ch. 2

[133] The dates of kings such as Kanishka are not resolved. Many dates are based on coins and can span differences of fifty to one hundred years.

[134] A passage in the Book of Exodus describes the Ephod as an elaborate garment worn by the high priest, and upon which the Hoshen (breastplate), containing Urim and Thummim, rested.

[135] R.E. Sherman, *Buddha and Jesus, Could Solomon be the Missing Link?* buddha-christ.iai.nfo

[136] buddha-christ.info Retrieved September 16, 2011

[137] *The History of Buddhism*. Dr. C. George Boeree.Shippensburg University (1999).

[138] Courtesy www.neoalexandria.org

[139] *The Mahavamsa* (Great Chronicle) is a historical poem written in the Pali language about the kings of Sri Lanka. It covers the period from the coming of King Vijaya of Kalinga (ancient Orissa) in 543 BCE to the reign of King Mahasena (334–361CE).

[140] Ahmad, Khwaja Nazir, pp. 353, 354.

[141] Ahmad Hasan Dani, (1920 – 2009) was an eminent Pakistani archaeologist, historian, and linguist. He was among the foremost authorities on Central Asian and South Asian archaeology and history. He introduced archaeology as a discipline in higher education in Pakistan and Bangladesh. He assisted this author in 2001-02 for an archaeological project to obtain DNA from the grave of Mother Mary in Pakistan.

[142]

[143] the Rauzat-us-Safa written by Mir Muhammad Bin Khawand in 1417AD follows Jesus' travels on the Silk Road. The 'Tomb of Jesus' website has an extensive list of Persian documents that discuss Jesus. www.arifkhan.co.uk/TOJ

[144] Flavius Claudius Julianus, known also as Julian, Julian the Apostate or Julian the Philosopher (331-332) The Nisibis region, after nearly fifty years of rule by Constantine and his Christian successors, contained more Christians than the entire Sassanian Empire. This Christian population was absorbed into the Church of the East.

[145] The '32 signs of a Great Man' are described throughout the Pali Canon, and these are believed to have formed the basis for early representations of the Buddha. These 32 major

characteristics are also supplemented by another 80 secondary characteristics that include good physical health, bright blue eyes and slender fingers. (Pali: Anubyanjana).

[146] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxila

[147] *Gandhara's Wonders*. The Star (Malaysia) May 7, 2006.

[148] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magadha_Kingdom

[149] The Church of the East website; churchoftheeast.ca (Canada)
Acts of Yesu can be read online at wayist.org

[150] Medlycott, A.E. (1905). "The Apostle Thomas and Gondophares the Indian King". India and the Apostle Thomas. London: David Nutt.

[151] 'Received from the Holy Spirit' suggests 'channeled' information. However the Church assured me they have the additional independent documentation that Jesus and Thomas verified with St. Siphor directly, not from spirits or channeling. This was written in the 1st Century in Kashmir while Jesus was still living in Kashmir. See their website for further clarification.

[152] wayist.org/eb/Acts_of_Thomas_about

[153] Jesus had several prominent female disciples, whose names are mentioned in the Bible (Luke 8). The Gnostic scriptures mention seven female students by name (Pistis Sophia). Xenophon mentions that Magdalene helped start the Order, and it may have been named after her, not after the kingdom of Magada.

[154] Jewish Daily Forward, 'On the Pulpit, Rabbis Earn More Than Christian Clergy
The Cost of Belonging': By Josh Nathan-Kazis,Published September 15, 2010, issue of September 24, 2010.

[155] Explanations and social norms examined following excerpts from *Acts of Yesu*.

[156] Parthia is a region of north-eastern Iran, base of the Arsacid dynasty, rulers of the Parthian Empire.
The name "Parthia" is a continuation from Latin Parthia, from Old Persian Parthava, which was the Parthian language self-designator signifying "of the Parthians" who were an Iranian people.

[157] A five day festival with candle light processions, singing and dancing to the temples each night at midnight-attracts thousands of followers during the parade of the gods and goddesses, which in modern times are followed by fireworks.

[158] Reform Jews were called Nazoreans (Nostrim in Greek). They were organized in communities that shared wealth and possessions. They regarded themselves as a reform movement within Judaism; they still required their male members to be circumcised and for all to follow the Jewish laws regarding ritual and diet. Some went on missionary journeys to Jewish settlements in cities throughout the Roman Empire. There were many points of conflict between the Jewish Christians (Nazorians) and Pauline Christianity.

[159] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pistis_Sophia

[160] *The Gospel of the Holy Twelve,* also known as *The Gospel of the Perfect Life.* Translated from Aramaic and edited by Rev. Gideon Jasper Richard Ouseley, who has since been discredited. However, during the last century, other old fragments of the same gospel have been found in old libraries and excavations. These fragments are called Logins or Agraphas. According to the Roman Catholic Church, for Agrapha to be genuine, they must be supported by external and internal evidence. This means that early writers, like Papias, Clement, Ireneas, and Justin Martyr would have quoted them. Many parts of these fragments agree, word for word, with the Gospel of Ouseley, though they are completely missing in the canonical gospels.

[161] Ch. 13; 01-03/it is quite possible that the document as we have it antedates the four gospels of the New Testament and may have served as a source for their respective authors. The Gospel of Peter was probably composed in the second half of the first century, most likely in western Syria. As such, it is the oldest extant writing produced and circulated under the authority of apostle Peter. www.earlychristianwritings.com

[162] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prostitution_of_children and other online sources

[163] 'There's Something about Mary'...'Magdalene '(Part 2) by James Tabor-Blog dated August 29, 2012.-A Woman Called Magdalene. jamestabor.com

[164] newadvent.org/cathen/01476d.htm

[165] John F. MacArthur, Jr. cited in R.C. Girard & Larry Richards, "The Life of Christ," Thomas Nelson (2007), Page 8.

[166] The Hakatha, or Code of Hammurabi is a well-preserved Babylonian law code, dating back to about 1772 BC. It is one of the oldest deciphered writings of significant length in the world. The sixth Babylonian king, Hammurabi, enacted the code, and partial copies exist on a human-sized stone stele and various clay tablets.

[167] The Pandava (Pantera Family) appear in the Mahabharata epic of India. The word means 'panther' and may have some connection with King David as the 'Lion (Panther) of Judah.' Ahmed Osman relates the name to Ra (Egypt). In Hebr. the name is Pa-ndi-ra which transliterates from Egyptian to Pa-ntr-ra or Pa neter Ra the ancient title of Sun god 's the title son of Ra, an epithet of pharaohs back to the fourth dynasty, an identification of JC with pharaonic lines would stress more the connection with the royal line of David (if he is identified with Tutmoses 3 - son of Ra) than of his more recent descendent.

The name stayed in the Talmud in Pantera form, suggesting its antiquity.For the Jewish it would have been difficult to name JC as a son of Aten/Adonai as this equates to son of god (a heretical notion to Jews).

[171] Darrel L. Bock. *'Gospel of Luke'* Baker Academic (1994) p 499. She is identified in the New Testament and in Islam as the mother of Jesus through divine intervention.[Mt 1:16,18-25] [Lk 1:26-56] [2:1-7][3]

[172] *The Book of Hanok (Enoch)* Chapter 105, 1-20/ an ancient Jewish religious work, ascribed to Enoch, the great-grandfather of Noah. It is regarded as canon by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Eritrean Orthodox Church. Its older sections (mainly in the Book of the Watchers) date from about 300 BC and the latest part (Book of Parables) at the end of the 1st century BC. It is extant only in the Ge'ez language [Ethiopia] with Aramaic fragments from the Dead Sea Scrolls and a few Greek and Latin fragments.

[173] *"Dawn of Religion in Paradise on Earth."* By Ranajit Pal. Retrieved July 2010 from www.ranajitpal.com/dawn.html.....

"As the Seistan area was the ancient Dhamasthana, one has to search for Yudhisthira here, who was called Dharmaputra. Yudhisthira's name is usually rendered as 'one who remains unperturbed in battle' but this is not convincing, as he was not a distinguished warrior. A far better rendering appears to be Yadus-Terah. Krishna, cousin of Yudhisthira, was a Yadu and Tir was the name of the god Nabu who was greatly revered by Nebuchadrezzar. After the Bharata war Yudhisthira went westward to Mount Meru which may be Babil in Seistan. In fact it now appears that Abraham's trek may have been a continuation of Yudhisthira's journey." (See also Chapter 3).

[174] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pashtun_people

[175] Polo, Marco; Latham, Ronald. The Travels. London: Penguin Classics (1958). pp. 15-384.

[176] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrine_of_the_Three_Kings

[177] *The Book of the Cave of Treasures;* translated from the Syriac by E. A. Wallis Budge [London, The Religious Tract Society][1927]{Scanned and edited by Christopher M. Weimer, June 2002} sacred-texts.com. See their 'Introduction' for full background.

[178] Charles "Chuck" Missler is an author, evangelical Christian, Bible teacher, former business-man and Air Force officer. He is the founder of the Koinonia House ministry based in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He was chairman, chief executive, and the largest shareholder of Western Digital. In 1983 he became the chairman and chief executive of Helionetics Inc., another technology company.

[179] Malabar Jews; Cranganore is regarded as the original home and chief dwelling place of Jewish immigrants in India. Refer to Chapter on St. Thomas. It is not associated with Calcutta, as Voltaire suggested.

[180] Francisco Suárez, Spanish theologian and scholar (1548-1617). In some narratives, the money was stolen from Joseph and Mary on their journey to Egypt. The thieves were caught. Joseph asked that their lives be spared. The same men, Dimas and Gestas, were hung with Jesus at crucifixion, some 30 years later. In another version, Judas stole the family inheritance from Jesus and Mary.

[181] *The Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos* stanneorthodoxchurch.com

[182] Dionysius was born in a noble family in Athens. He is numbered among the Seventy Lesser Apostles. He travelled with Paul and met all of the other Apostles. He met Mother Mary and wrote of her and of her burial, which he attended.

[183] If Mary was described as remaining a virgin even unto death, then she did not re marry, nor bear any children after the birth of Jesus.

[184] Jesus arrived on 'a cloud' to be with his mother when she was dying, and it was written that all witnessed it, but none could explain how it happened. *Before Guadalupe: the Virgin Mary in early colonial Nahuatl literature.* p.104. By Louise M. Burkhart (2001)

[185] Faqi Muhammad Qazi Muhammad Razi, *Jamai-ut-Tawarikh* (in Persian) Vol. 2, p. 81.

[186] Mir Khawand bin Badshah, *Rauza-tus-Safa (The Gardens of Purity)* (Bombay: reprinted in 1852) vol. 1 of 7, 132-136. See also the secondary source: K. N. Ahmad, *Jesus in Heaven on Earth*, 358, 404. See also Omar Michael Burke, *Among the Dervishes* (London: Octagon Press, 1976), 107. See also Kersten, *Jesus Lived in India*, p.186.

[187] storyofpakistan.com/benazir-bhutto/

[188] Ahmad Hasan Dani, 1920-2009 was a Kashmiri, archaeologist, historian, and linguist. He was among the foremost authorities on Central Asian and South Asian archaeology and history, famous for his extensive 30 years work at Taxila

[189] The Dalai Lama- leader of the Gelug or 'Yellow Hat' branch of Buddhism- dalai/ocean--lama/teacher, guru. These lamas sometimes governed Tibet. The present Dali Lama retired in 2011 at age 76. Lobsang Sangay is the new head of the 'Tibetan Government-in-Exile'. There were over 6,000 monasteries in Tibet ransacked and destroyed by the Chinese communists during the Cultural Revolution. Some have been partially re-established but most still remain in ruins. With their destruction also went many accounts of early Christians among them.

[190] 79 AD is used with the usual disclaimer that no one agrees on the dates of kings.

[191] Two ancient testimonies exist about the mission of Saint Bartholomew in India. These are of Eusebius of Caesarea (early 4th century) and of Saint Jerome (late 4th century). Both these

refer to this tradition while speaking of the reported visit of Pantaenus to India in the 2nd century.

[192] Fenlon, John Francis. "St. Bartholomew." The Catholic Encyclopedia. Vol. 2. New York: 1907. 6 May 2010 http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/02313c.htm

[193] Knowing our ancestry has been a source of pride in my family, and writing about their lives makes history come alive in meaningful ways.

[194] www.all-catholic-saints.info/St-Clotilde

[195] *"Early references about the Apostolate of Saint Thomas in India, Records about the Indian tradition, Saint Thomas Christians & Statements by Indian Statesmen".* Nasrani Syrian Christians Network. Retrieved 17October2010.

[196] Several sources mention this famine and the early church role, including the *Catholic Encyclopedia,* pg. 568 (Knights of Columbus 1911 Special Edition).

[197] *Commentary on the Epistles of St. Paul -Dissertation .The Brethren of the Lord.* J.B. Lightfoot (1865) retrieved from: philologos.org

[198] Origin of Christianity in India: a historiographical critique
By Benedict Vadakkekara. pp 140-141-142-143-144-145 (1984) vol.1, Bangalore, India: Church History Association of India.

[199] kushan.org/sources/thomasandapollonius.htm

[200] Faqir. Mohammed,Jami-ut-Tawarikh,Vol. 2:81

[201] Hassnain, Fida, *The Fifth Gospel,* (1988 edition) p. 267 describes the ancient book *Tawar-ikh-I-Kashmir* by Mullah Nadri about the journey. This book is in the private collection of Bashrat Shaheen, descendant of Jesus in Srinagar.

[202] T.K. Joseph (1955). *Thomas of South India*. University of California. p. 27.

[203] *The St. Thomas Christian Encyclopedia of India All about India's Christianity*, Vol. 2.

[204] Cranganore is anglicized name for Kodungalloor/Krankanoor, a seaport on the Malabar coast of India. Kerala is part of this port.

[205] *The Impact of Thomas Christianity.* Prof. M.M. Ninan.

[206] Church of Thomas at Kerala, online at stthoman.com.

[207] Rulers were using a concept called the Mandate of Heaven, the Magna Carta, conditional upon the just behavior of the ruler. The sultan (raja-maharaja-ruler) is mandated by God, and is expected to lead his country and people in religious matters, ceremonies, and prayers. This divine right is called Daulat. This also applied to Hebrew royals descended from King David who were now in India.

[208] Antonio de Gouvea, historian and writer, was Mar Thoma IV, the fourth bishop who sat on Malankara throne and led the Malankara Church from 1688-1728.

[209] *The Inquisitive Christians*. H. Meyers, p.9-15. New Millennium Publications (1992)

[210] Prof. M.M.Ninan is a Professor of Theoretical Physics. He taught theology in Yemen Sudan, India and United States: he was the first Moderator/Chairman of the International Christian Fellowship of the Yemen Arab Republic (the first Yemeni Christian Church established since the massacre of Yemeni "Thomas Christians" by Islam in 6th century AD.) He was one of the pioneers of the Sudan Pentecostal Churches and of the Sudan Theological College, where he taught theology for over five years.

[211] The Merovus fish symbol was connected with his Viking ancestors, who often had fish, serpents, and other mythological sea creatures carved on the bow of their ships, which were uniquely designed for both open seas and inland waterways. 'Viking' comes from the word 'vik'—small inland waterways that they frequented and explored.

[212] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus bloodline.

[213] T.K. Joseph (1955) *Thomases of South India.* University of California. p. 27.
[214] M.M. Ninan. *Biblical and Apologetic Studies*-there are several traditions about the death of Thomas, however, this is the most widely accepted.
[215] stgeorgecheppaud.org/StThomas.
[216] Ibid.
[217] J.B. Segal, cs.nyu.edu/kandathi/thomas
[218] A Syrian ecclesiastical calendar of an early date confirms that Thomas' bones arrived at Edessa and gives the merchant a name. The entry reads: "St. Thomas who was pierced with a lance in India, his body is at Urhai [the ancient name of Edessa] having been brought there by the merchant Khabin (Haban)".
[219] An acolyte is a follower or attendant- an officer who assists a priest [via Old French and Medieval Latin from Greek akolouthos, a follower]
[220] Hassnain, Fida., The RozaBal, Beyond the DaVinci Code, pp.270-271.
[221] The oldest surviving Buddhist writings are on 29 birch bark scrolls, found hidden in jars at Gandhara; dated same age as Qumran scrolls, about 2,000 years old. *Ancient Buddhist Scrolls from Gandhara: The British Library Karoshti Fragments* by R.Salomon et al; U. of Washington Press (1999).
[222] Monier Monier-Williams, KCIE (12 November 1819 – 11 April 1899) was the second Boden Professor of Sanskrit at Oxford University, England. He studied, documented and taught Asian languages, and compiled one of the most widely used Sanskrit-English dictionaries.
[223] Khwaja Nazir Ahmad is author of *'Jesus in Heaven on Earth',* a chronicle of his research into Jesus in Kashmir. See p. 397 in his book for his discussion about this rod.
[224] The rod is also mentioned in Rauza-tus-Safa, (Vol. 2, 35) Jame-ut-Tawarikh, (Vol. 2-81) and Wajeez-ut-Tawarickh (Vol. 2, 286).
[225] Bennett, John G., *Gurdjieff: Making of A New World*, pp 56-57, Bennett Pub. Co., (1992)
[226] *Studies in Comparative Religion,* edited by Francis Clive-Ross (Winter 1974)
[227] The literature describing Merkavah is called Hekhalot.
[228] Antiochus I was half Armenian and half Greek, a distant member of the dynasty of the King of Kings, Darius I. His father was also related to the kings of Parthia.
[229] Adrian Gilbert. *Magi pp.* 254-259
[230] Reijo Elsner- katinkahesselink.net/sufi
[231] Retrieved from: sher-point-shadowlands.dyndns.org/uploads/pubs/SarmounAccount.pdf
[232] Phineas was the grandson of Aaron, and son of Eleazar the high priest (*Exodus* 6:25)
[233] "By his divinity he obtained the rod" does not mean the infant Jesus himself found the rod, but he was selected because of his divinity to be given the rod next.
[234] *Matthew* 27:18, *Mark* 15:10.
[235] A messiah is considered a human descendant of King David who will rebuild the nation of Israel and bring world peace.
[236] S.S. World (Samaritans) Biblegateway.com.
[237] *Philosophical Dictionary*, by Voltaire. Available online-- ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/v/voltaire
[238] If they robbed Joseph, why were they hanged nearly 30 years later with Jesus? Had they attempted another robbery?
[239] According to Luke 23: 39-41, and the Gospel of Nichodemus, their names were Dismas and Gestas/Gesmas."One of the criminals who hung there [crucified next to Christ] was a thief. He hurled insults at Christ."
[240] Selections from Pickthall's translation.
[241] english.turkcebilgi.com/Roman+consul

[242] Author-historian Hugh Montgomery believes the proof is overwhelming that Joseph of Arimathea is the same Joseph who wed Mother Mary and who was Jesus' father. One reason for his certainty is that according to both Roman law and Jewish law at the time, only a father or a son had the right to ask for the body that hung on the cross according to *Matthew* 27; 57-61.

[243] The tradition of Pilate converting to Christianity has a complicated history that begins in the latter half of the second century with Irenaeus (AD 130-200) and Tertullian (AD 160-220).

[244] *Report from Pilate to Caesar:* [Vatican library translation from Latin]. Scholars have argued the authenticity of all or part of this letter, but as early as 138 AD, this document is said to have existed in public records as acceptable history. There are additional papers with words ascribed to Pilate in *The Acts of Pilate*, which *are* obvious forgeries by comparison.

[245] Mary, Jesus and the Charismatic Priest: Faith, legend and logic in Languedoc by Val Wineyard (2010) Isbn: 2951184557X

[246] *Gospel of John* 18:37-38

[247] *Luke* 23. Herod Antipas, Ruler of Galilee 4-39 CE was responsible for the execution of John the Baptist. His father was responsible for the infant Jesus fleeing to Egypt after the visit by the magi in *Matthew* 2. The Herod family was Jewish and had built the Second Temple in Jerusalem. Herod would immediately recognize the position of Jesus and the significance of the rod.

[248]Many scholars say that Nazareth did not exist at the time of Jesus....does this refer to an area known as the gathering place of the Nazarenes?

[249] rosaryworkshop.com and en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titulus Crucis

[250] James F. Forcucci (Compiler) *Relics of repentance: The letters of Pontius Pilate and Claudia Procula.* Issana Press; Revised edition (1996)(Now out of print?)See also- *Letters of Pontius Pilate.*

[251] *Antiquities* 18.85-87.

[252] A pseudepigrapha [actual source unknown] letter purporting to have been sent by Pontius Pilate to the Emperor Claudius, known as the *Acts of Peter and Paul*, of which the *Catholic Encyclopedia* states, "This composition is clearly apocryphal."[hidden,esoteric, non-canonical]. Others feel it is based on an earlier authentic letter, and truthful.

[253] *The Roza Bal, Beyond the DaVinci Code*. Fida Hassnain and Suzanne Olsson pp. 197-210(2004)

[254] Barry Downing, p.132-133.

[255] *Apocrypha of James: The Nag Hammadi Library,* Harper Collins (1990).

[256] See also *Illustrations of Ancient Buildings* by A.A. Coli that shows additional photographs taken of these inscriptions. The book *Jesus in Heaven on Earth* contains photographs of the same inscriptions that were taken by Major H.H. Cole.

[257] Selection made from James M. Robinson, ed., The Nag Hammadi Library, revised edition. HarperCollins, 1990. Web verified from .gnosis.org/naghamm/allogene. September 24, 2011. The texts originated among the Sethians, a Christian Gnostic sect who may date their existence to before Christianity. Their influence spread throughout the Mediterranean into the later systems of the Basilideans and the Valentinians; predominantly Judaic in foundation and strongly influenced by Platonism. Sethians are so called for their veneration of the biblical Seth, third son of Adam and Eve, who is depicted in their myths of creation as a divine incarnation; consequently, the offspring or 'posterity' of Seth are held to comprise a superior elect within human society. Sethians identified Seth with Christ (Second Logos of the Great Seth). The British-German group the Knights of Seth were inspired by them.

[258] Vermes (1924-2013) was one of the first scholars to examine the Dead Sea Scrolls after their discovery in 1947, and is the author of the standard translation into English of the Dead Sea Scrolls: *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English* (1962) He is one of the leading scholars in the field of the study of the historical Jesus. Until his death, he was a Professor Emeritus of Jewish Studies and Emeritus Fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford. He also wrote *Jesus the Jew: A Historian's Reading of the Gospels.*

[259] Clement of Alexandria Miscellanies. Quoted in A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs, p. 138.

[260] Richard Fletcher, history professor at the University of York, England spent a lot of time researching medieval Europe, the era when forced conversions were the rule. He covered this in his book, 'The *Barbarian Conversion: From Paganism to Christianity'* (Henry Holt, 1997).

[261] Philip Schaff History of the Christian Church. Vol. 1, p. 433.

[262] from the book title, Why God Wont Go Away, by A.Newberg, E. D'Aquili, and V. Rause, Ballantine Books, 2001.

[263] The Dhammapada consists of 423 verses in Pali uttered by the Buddha on some 305 occasions for the benefit of a wide range of human beings. These sayings were selected and compiled into one book as being worthy of special note on account of their beauty and relevance for moulding the lives of future generations of Buddhists.

[264] *Among the Wild Tribes of the Afghan Frontier'* by Theodore Leighton Pennell, Oxford University Press, 1975 – p. 31.

[265] *Afghanistan: A New History, by* Martin Ewans, Edition: 2, Routledge, 2002
Page 15

[266] Stephen P. Cohen, *The Untouchable Soldier: Caste, Politics, and the Indian Army*. The Journal of Asian Studies, Vol. 28, No. 3 (May 1969), pp. 453–468

[267] [267] Budge, E.A., Book *of the Bee*. Clarendon Press (1886) sacred texts.com

[268] Hegesippus, second century Christian historian, wrote this in his *Memoirs* and was quoted by Eusebius in *Ecclesiastical History*.

[269] Chunder Dutt, *Rajatarangini*, D.K. Pub. Delhi (1997)

[270] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gondophares

[271] khmerconnection.com/topic/kambojas-kambujas-kambodia-kampuchea-101502/

[272] Hippolytus (AD 170–236), considered to have been one of the most learned Christian historians, puts names to the seventy disciples whom Jesus sent forth in Luke 10, includes Aristobulus of Romans 16:10 with Joseph, and states that he ended up becoming a pastor in Britain.

In none of these earliest references to Christianity's arrival in Britain is Joseph of Arimathea mentioned. The first literary connection of Joseph of Arimathea with Britain appeared in the ninth-century 'Life of Mary Magdalene' attributed to Rabanus Maurus (AD 766–856).

[273] BIOGRAPHIA ANTIQUA. ZOROASTER, THE SON OF OROMASIUS,
FIRST INSTITUTOR OF PHILOSOPHY BY FIRE, AND MAGIC.

[274]Jamsheed K. Choksy, *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, Vol. 14, No. 4,
October 2003
Hagiography and Monotheism in History: doctrinalencounters between Zoroastrianism, Judaism andChristianity

[275] wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoorsaini

[276] Porus Homi Havewala, 1995, Caesar Enterprises, Bombay, India.

[277] wiki/The_Arctic_Home_in_the_Vedas

[278] Joe Cribb is a trustee of Ditchling Museum, Sussex and coordinator of the Eric Gill Society. He specializes in the history of coinage in Asia, represented by India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Kashmir and Afghanistan. His interests also cover the history and practice of numismatics. He was President of the Royal Numismatic Society (2005–9) and is a council member of the Oriental Numismatic Society. He is currently working on a catalogue of the coins of the Kushan kings of ancient South and Central Asia (first to fourth centuries AD).

[279] Kushan Empire (ca. 2nd century BC–3rd century AD). Thematic Essay, Timeline of Art History. The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

[280] Abiathar- [divine] father - father of plenty), in the Hebrew Bible, son of Achimelech or Ahijah, High Priest at Nob, the fourth in descent from Eli (*1 Sam. 33:6*) and the last of Eli's House. The only one of the priests to escape from Saul's massacre, he fled to David at Keilah, taking with him the ephod and other priestly articles *(1 Sam. 22:20 f., 23:6, 9*). He was of great service to David, especially at the time of the rebellion of Absalom (*2 Sam. 15:24, 29, 35, 20:25*). In *1 Kings, 4:4* Zadok and Abiathar are found acting together as priests under Solomon. In *1 Kings 1:7, 19, 25*, however, Abiathar appears as a supporter of Adonijah, and in 2:22 and 26 it is said that he was deposed by Solomon and banished to Anathoth.

[281] Al-Beruni, (Abu Rayhan Biruni) 973-1048, *Kitab fi Tahqiq ma li'l-Hind* also known as *Researches on India.*

[282] Several authors have written on the subject, including the religious leader Mirza Ghulam Ahmad ,founder of Ahmadiyya movement (1899), Levi H. Dowling (1908), Swami Abhedananda (1922), Nicholas Roerich (1923–1928), Mathilde Ludendorff (1930), and Elizabeth Clare Prophet ,founder of Ascended Master Teachings New Age group (1956).

[283] bibleencyclopedia.com/sanhedrin.htm

[284] rodovid.org

[285] Ahroni, 1994, p. 204.

[286] www.stgeorgecheppaud.org/StThomas.htm

[287] Rajatarangini p.364

[288] W.M.A.A.Karunaratne, University of Peradeniya, Department of Geology, 8th International Symposium: Cultural Heritage in Geosciences, Mining and Metallurgy 'Cultural and Mining Metallurgical History of Sri Lanka.' 2005 meeting; geologie.ac.at

[289] Laurence Gardner, *Bloodline of the Holy Grail*, p. 96

[290] McKechnie, Paul (1989). Outsiders in the Greek cities in the fourth century B.C.. Taylor & Francis. p. 54.

[291] The *Bhavishya Purana*, verses 17-32 in the 19th chapter of the Chaturyuga Khanda Dvitiyadhyayah and *Veerabrahmendra Yogipai Parishodhana* by Sanskrit scholar Dr. Vedavyas.

[292] The name Patmos, it is generally believed, derives from the word Latmos in Asia Minor where the goddess Diane (Artemis), was particularly adored.

[293] It is considered the topmost and final stage of the ashram systems and is traditionally taken by men or women at or beyond the age of fifty years old or by young monks who wish to renounce worldly and materialistic pursuits and instead dedicate their entire life towards spiritual pursuits.

[294] Josephus, Ant., V, ix, x, xi; Geikie, O.T. Characters: Eli, 184-193; Maldonatus, In Matt., i, 16; Eccl.

[295] Gardner, Laurence, *Bloodline of the Holy Grail* (Element Press, 2000) pp.101-103.

[296] A *genizah* is the store-room or depository in a synagogue (or cemetery), usually specifically for worn-out Hebrew books and relics before they could receive a proper cemetery burial (bet ayyim). The proper burial would occur every seven years (in accordance with Jerusalem

custom). The best-known genizah, which is famous for both its size and spectacular contents, is the Cairo Genizah, discovered in 1864 by Jacob Saphir, and chiefly studied by Solomon Schechter and Shlomo Dov Goitein.

[297] Arabic: Ibn Al-Hakim, "Son of the Wise".

[298] There are many web sites available that explain how these statistics are arrived at. This is one of several that I used(accessedOct.28,2012)blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2011/02/how-many-ancestors-do-you-have.html

[299] Asiatic Society of Bengal, India (1885) describes coins found in Kashmir from Mihirakula (circa 500-530AD), son of Toramana. However, this has been proven an error. Thoramana was neither a Huna nor father of Mihirakula.

[300] Vrajandra: the child of King Nanda, King of Vraja.

[301] The lists of kings of Ishvaku or Ashvaka dynasty are found in the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Harivamsha, and the Puranas, and include the Buddha's family: supposed to be a mythical dynasty founded by Ikshvaku, grandson of Vivasvan or Surya and son of Vaivasvata Manu. This dynasty is also known as Sūryavaṁśa (the Solar dynasty). The important personalities belonging to this royal house are Harishchandra, Dilipa, Sagara Raghu, Rama and Prasenajit

[302] By a small stretch of imagination, I am guessing, by his unpleasant nature, that this is the son Saul met and did not like.

[303] answering-islam.org/Authors/Arlandson/crusades.htm

[304] kashmir-information.com/Atrocities/Temples/temples8.html

[305] seaservices.com/Muslim.htm-provides the rules that must be followed for burial of all Muslims.

[306] The Fifth Gospel, Fida Hassnain, pp.261 through 288.

[307] Rizvi is a common name associated with Shia Muslims- descendants of the 8th Shiite Imam, successor of Prophet Muhammad through his daughter Fatimah.

[308] The full decree appears in several books, including Aziz Kashmiri, 'Christ in Kashmir'p.90, and Atika Sadeeqa, 'Jesus the Traveling Prophet', p.176.

[309]en.wikipedia/Destruction_of_early_Islamic_heritage_sites_in_Saudi_Arabia

[310] 'Jesus Lived in India', p. 246, Ch.9 notes, #26

[311] greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Jul/2/courtesy-mismanagement-waqf-board-turns-white-elephant-50.asp read October 2012.

[312] www.greaterkashmir.com/news/2012/Sep/5/waqf-board-puts-graveyards-on-sale-33.asp

[313] "The Roza Bal Shrine of Srinagar" 2010, written and Directed by Yashendra Prasad, Produced by Film Board of Gov. Of India; In spite of these obstacles, the film got excellent coverage at Intl. Film Festival of Kerala and has been shown worldwide.

[314] Paul Constantine Pappas (born 1934) is an American writer. He was professor of history at West Virginia Institute of Technology. He is a Jain with an interest in India religions and wrote a book about the tomb of Jesus in Kashmir.

A Jain, Pappas has an interest in the religions of India. In 1991 he wrote a book on the Roza Bal shrine in Srinagar, which, according to the teaching of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1899), founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, is the tomb not of a Buddhist or Muslim holy man, but of Jesus of Nazareth. Pappas notes that the Yuzasaf (or Budasaf) traditions associated with the tomb are interpreted by Ahmadis to read that the Yuzasaf tradition is also about Jesus and not Buddha.

[315] The belief of Sunni Muslims is that Jesus & Muhammad will return to earth with swords...there will be a bloodbath and Jesus will kill all who do not become Muslims. Of course the idea that Jesus would ever be so violent is aberrant to Christians. This idea of Jesus as a killer is what Ghulam Ahmad was speaking out against.

[316] Maulvie is an honorific Islamic religious title given to Sunni Muslim religious scholars or Ulema preceding their names.

[317] Qadian, 25 April 1899 'Jesus in India' Introduction. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a dynamic, fast growing international revival movement within Islam. Founded in 1889, it spans over 195 countries with membership in the millions. Its current headquarters are in the United Kingdom. Suzanne Olsson suggests the descendants of the Ahmaddi founder submit their DNA to the DNA of God Project.

[318] Ahmad, Kwaja, pp. 400-401.

[319] Ibid. p. 397.

[320] Business Standard News, Faizal Ahmad, BSCAL, September 24,1997, "Farooq Gov. takes over control of Key Muslim trust." Verified online March 2010.

[321] *The Telegraph*, Calcutta, India, April 3, 2010.

[322] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Destruction_of_early_Islamic_heritage_sites

[323] Christians are 0.014% of the population of Muslim majority Kashmir and are under constant attacks and threats. Schools are burned down and teachers killed if there is just the slightest rumor that someone may have converted to Christianity and joined them. See 02/24/2011, AsiaNews.IT, Kashmir: 'Christian schools burnt down in Srinagar. Islamic militants suspected', by Nirmala Carvalho.

[324] Asia news, July 25, 2013

[325] full article appears in Christian Post, 9 December 2012

[326] *Christians in Kashmir, India Increasingly Fearful*-Compass Direct News-December 15, 2011- www. christianpost.com

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[344] The earliest documented Christian knowledge of Muhammad stems from Byzantine sources. They indicate that both Jews and Christians saw Muhammad as a "false prophet". In the Doctrina Jacobi nuper baptizati of 634, Muhammad is portrayed as being "deceiving- for do prophets come with sword and chariot? You will discover nothing true from the said prophet except human bloodshed."Another Greek source for Muhammad is the 9th-century writer Theophanes. The earliest Syriac source is the 7th-century writer John bar Penkaye. According to Hossein Nasr, earliest European literature often refers to Muhammad unfavorably. A few learned circles of Middle Ages Europe – primarily Latin-literate scholars – had access to fairly extensive biographical material about Muhammad. They interpreted that information through a Christian religious filter that viewed Muhammad as a charlatan driven by ambition and eagerness for power, and who seduced the Saracens into his submission under a religious guise. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad

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[363] Wolfram von Eschenbach (1170-1220) was a German knight and poet, regarded as one the greatest epic poets of his time.

[364] Devin Powell, *New Scientist*, "Memories May Be Stored in Your DNA", 02 December 20C Washington DC, issue 2684, newscientist.com, web verified March 2010. See also books Paul Von Ward, an interdisciplinary cosmologist who has scientifically investigated memor DNA for many years and wrote several books on the topic.

[365] Paul von Ward, *The Soul Genome* (pub. Fenestra Books, 2008)

[367] Veneration of the dead is based on the belief that the deceased, often family membe have a continued existence and/or possess the ability to influence the fortune of the livin Some groups venerate their ancestors; the Catholic Church venerates saints. In some Easte cultures, and in Native American traditions, the goal of ancestor veneration is to ensure t ancestors' continued well-being and positive disposition towards the living and sometimes ask for special favors or assistance. The social or non-religious function of ancestor veneratic is to cultivate kinship values, such as filial piety, family loyalty, and continuity of the fam lineage.

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[386] James H. Brown, et al: The Fractal Nature of Nature. Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, The Royal Society, May 2002.

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[389] Richard Feynman (1918-1988), scientist and teacher, assisted in development of atomic bomb and expanded the understanding of quantum electrodynamics.

[390] Christopher Michael Langan (1952-) is an American whose IQ was reported by *20/20* and other media sources to have been measured at between 195 and 210: "the smartest man in America", Langan developed 'theory of the relationship between mind and reality', the Cognitive-Theoretic Model of the Universe.

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